

Saturday February 10 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Algeria L 2.70	Andorra FF 10	Austria AS 26	Bahrain B 0.80	Belgium BF 80	Bulgaria L 170	Canada CA 12.50	Cyprus C 1.00	Czech Republic KC 40	Denmark DK 15	Dubai D 0.50	Egypt E 1.50	France F 11	Germany DM 3.50	Greece G 350	Hong Kong HK 25	Hungary F 200	Iceland IS 180	India IN 100	Israel IS 8.80	Italy I 2,000	Jordan J 1.00	Korea K 0.50	Lebanon LB 2	Lithuania LT 3,000	Luxembourg L 25	Madagascar M 200	Malta ML 0.40	Mexico M 15	Netherlands G 4.00	Norway N 15	Oman OR 1.00	Pakistan R 70	Poland Z 0.70	Portugal E 200	Qatar QH 1.50	Romania R 10	Saudi Arabia R 10	Slovakia SK 25	Slovenia SLT 260	Spain P 225	Sweden S 15	Switzerland SF 3	Taiwan T 1.80	Turkey TL 100,000	Ukraine UA 2.50	USA US 2.75	Zimbabwe Z 27.00
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,472

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Lord Justice Scott exclusive interview



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Finance

Made in Israel Know-how powers economic revival

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Money

When the kissing stops... the hidden cost of love

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Bomb injures more than 100 Major attacks 'appalling outrage'

Blast ends ceasefire

Adams blames British leaders

Duncan Campbell, Patrick Wintour, John Mullin, David Sharrock, David Pallister and Helen Nowicka

THE 17-month IRA ceasefire came to a bloody end at 7pm last night with a blast that rocked east London, injured more than 100 people and thrust Northern Ireland back into political ferment.

After one hour of shock and hectic checking with the security forces, Prime Minister John Major attacked the bombing as "an appalling outrage". He called upon Sinn Fein and the IRA to condemn unequivocally those who planted the bomb near South Quay railway station on the Isle of Dogs, and any suggestion that the ceasefire is over.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, appeared to accept that the IRA ceasefire had ended when he said that he regretted that "an unprecedented opportunity for peace has floundered on the refusal of the British government and Unionist leaders to enter into dialogue and substantive negotiations."

Mr Adams appealed for calm, and also hinted at a split by saying Sinn Fein's peace strategy remains the main function of the party and his personal priority.

An hour-and-a-half after the blast, there was a report of a second device and fire officers were withdrawn.

Five people were seriously injured in the blast — two with "major" and three with "serious" injuries — and there were reported to be 100 "walking wounded", including a five-year-old girl with facial injuries. Two of the most seriously injured are police officers. The bomb had been planted in an underground garage in a six-storey office block.

No one within Sinn Fein immediately supported the bombing, but the warning message to a Dublin newspaper came with an authentic IRA code. Earlier in the day, Mr Adams had taken calls from the public on BBC Radio in Belfast. His message was that political talks were the way ahead.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, said: "If there has been a resumption of violence then it has clearly been done in order to try and prevent elections in Northern Ireland. It is incredible that people who, for the last 18 months, have been telling us they want to move into the democratic process should be resorting to violence."

Joe Hendron, the SDLP's MP for Belfast West, told Sky News: "I know that Gerry Adams on local radio was saying that the ceasefire was total and permanent. I suspect that this is perhaps a breakthrough from the IRA."

Dr Hendron accused the British government of "playing with fire" over the Mitchell Report on decommissioning terrorist weapons, but said the people of Northern Ireland would be numbingly numb at the reported end of the ceasefire.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist spokesman on secu-



Fire services arrive at the scene of the explosion

ry, told Channel 4 News: "I suppose I spent 18 months hoping against hope that it was wrong when I predicted this ceasefire was nothing but an attempt by the IRA and Sinn Fein to open a window of opportunity for those who have the support of just 4.8 per cent of the entire Northern Ireland electorate. Sadly, my hopes and the hopes of thousands have been dashed by what has happened."

The first hint that the ceasefire was about to end came when Scotland Yard received warnings from news agencies and Sky Television at 5.41pm that a coded statement had been received.

Scotland Yard said that they had been informed of the threat by a number of news agencies in Ireland and on the mainland, and attempts had been made to evacuate the area. Twenty five engines and 80 firefighters were despatched to the scene.

The message warned that the IRA had "with great reluctance" decided that the "complete cessation of violence" would end at 8pm last night. Other news agencies in Ireland and London received warnings that a bomb had been planted at South Quay railway station.

Within an hour, the threat had been realised. Moments after 7pm a blast that could be heard throughout east and north-east London announced that the IRA was back.

In his statement, Mr Major said: "This is an appalling outrage. My first thoughts are with the casualties, their fam-

ilies and the emergency services. We will pursue relentlessly those responsible for this disgraceful attack.

"It would be a tragedy if the hopes of the people of Britain and Northern Ireland for lasting peace were dashed again by the men of violence. This atrocity confirms again the urgent need to remove illegal arms from the equation."

Mr Major was joined by the Labour leader, Tony Blair, who condemned the bombing as a sickening outrage, while the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said it means the IRA has moved against the popular will of the Irish people, North and South.

The Irish prime minister, John Bruton, condemned the bombing as "entirely unjustified."

There were reports that windows in buildings as far as seven miles away had been shaken by the explosion.

Many of the injured were taken to the Royal London Hospital about three miles from Canary Wharf. But Jacqueline Cardiff, the hospital's general manager, said heavy traffic was delaying treatment. "We were told to expect 100 walking wounded and six serious cases," she said. One man was in theatre with serious head and chest injury, and most of the other patients suffered cuts and bruises.

Linda Holmes, co-owner of the Tradewinds wine bar about 200 yards from the explosion, said: "The blast was like being on a rollercoaster. All the windows came in and our customers all bent

over to shield themselves from the flying glass. We can't understand why the police didn't tell us before hand so we could vacate the building."

Last night a substantial area of Docklands was cordoned off amid reports of a large gas leak in the area.

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said: "I regret that the British government did not realise that terrorists are terrorists, and until they bring forth fruits for repentance they cannot be trusted. Unfortunately the British government trusted them and those of us who said, 'Be cautious, take care, watch, be wary, don't lower your guard' were labelled as anti-peace men."

The Ulster Unionist Roy Beggs, MP for Antrim East, said that even if the statement and the bomb were the work of a splinter group, that was not important.

"It's of no significance whether it is the action of a splinter group or otherwise. It's a very serious situation that has now been created."



Major's statement

JOHN MAJOR last night condemned the Canary Wharf bomb. In a statement, he said: "This is an appalling outrage. My first thoughts are with the casualties, their families and the emergency services. We will pursue relentlessly those responsible for this disgraceful attack."

"Sinn Fein had given assurances time and time again that they were committed to peaceful progress. I now call on the leadership of Sinn Fein and the IRA to condemn immediately and unequivocally those who planted this bomb. It would be a tragedy if the hopes of the people of Brit-



'IRA statement'

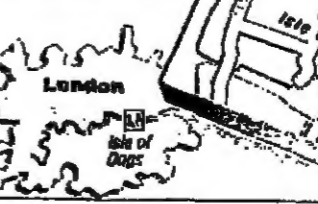
ain and Northern Ireland for lasting peace were dashed again by the men of violence. This atrocity confirms again the urgent need to remove illegal arms from the equation.

"For my part, I remain committed to the search for peace in Northern Ireland."

Labour leader Tony Blair said: "I utterly condemn this sickening outrage. My sympathy goes to the victims. There can be no justification whatsoever for a return to terrorism. I call on everyone — including Sinn Fein — to condemn this appalling act. All parties must at once return to the peace process."

Canary Wharf bomb

A bomb, hidden in the underground car park of a 6-floor office near South Quay railway station, exploded just after 7pm yesterday evening. Over 100 people were wounded, buildings across the area were damaged.



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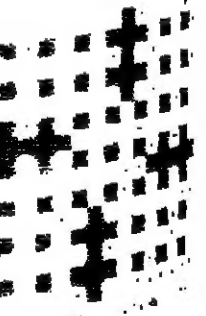
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A Chinese policeman checks destroyed pirate CDs and videos

PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER



Golden oldies... The US and European Commission are coming to the defence of established favourites not protected by Japanese copyright regulations, such as (clockwise from top) the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Simon and Garfunkel and the Rolling Stones

West tries to silence Japan's 'bootleg' tunes

Tokyo is being threatened with tough action over copyright and its rules on royalties

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

JAPANESE copyright-busting versions of 1960s hits by artists such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones and Frank Sinatra were yesterday being targeted by the European Commission and the United States for breaching world trade agreements.

Besides bootleg recordings, Commission officials have drawn attention to Japanese regulations on royalties, which now exclude some of the most popular Western hits throughout the country.

Both the Commission and Washington have threatened to take Japan to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) unless its government revises newly-introduced copyright legislation to extend protection for performers and their companies to 50 years.

Current Japanese regulations protect foreign artists only back to 1971 - which leaves most jazz, pop and rock and roll greats vulnerable to copying that would be illegal outside the country.

The US estimated yesterday that lost revenue might amount to \$500 million (\$315 million) a year, with compact disc versions of hits by the Beatles and other groups selling for a third of their price in Europe or America.

Some of the quaintly-spelled versions on sale in Tokyo include: "Best, The Beatles" - selling for the equivalent of about 23 - and a cassette tape featuring the greatest hits of a pair called

Simon and Garfunkel (sic) called "The Sound of Science". Sixties' versions of classical recordings by Western orchestras are also being remastered on CDs and sold as "live classics".

A European Commission spokesman in Brussels said: "We have decided to come to the rescue of the golden oldies. If Japan does not change its legislation within two weeks we will request formal consultations, with a challenge to the World Trade Organisation within 60 days."

The US has already filed a complaint to the WTO. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) specifically co-ordinates copyright agreements to 50 years.

Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, said it was the first time he could remember coming to the defence of Frank Sinatra or Bo Diddley, two of the most popular artists in Japan. The intellectual property

rights of composers and lyricists are protected for 50 years after their deaths, but the rights of musicians and record companies were agreed internationally under a 1993 accord which came into effect this year and was supposed to offer retrospective protection.

The EC and the US claim the Japanese have an obligation to extend their protection to 50 years, but Tokyo claims its copyright protection regulations have been cleared by the World Intellectual Property Organisation of the United Nations. A foreign ministry spokesman yesterday denied any intention to extend protection from 25 to 50 years.

Mr Kantor said in Washington that the US administration had made 13 separate approaches to the Japanese authorities, without success. It is believed 6 million unauthorised discs are produced annually in Japan.

The Japanese recording industry is thought to be worth \$6 billion a year. China smashed thousands of counterfeit compact discs yesterday to try to convince the US it had kept promises to end piracy.

The display of China's "winter offensive" on piracy and pornography - a candid media tour of efforts to confiscate and destroy counterfeit computer software - was conducted hours before the expected arrival of a senior US trade official.

US officials have acknowledged that China had stepped up efforts to curb rampant piracy since an agreement in February 1995 averted tit-for-tat trade sanctions. But they say progress has been limited largely to the retail level and that production and export of pirated goods had caused losses even higher than the \$66 million losses estimated when the agreement was reached last year. - Reuter.

Lone Irish gunboat keeps pirate trawler kings at bay

AN IRISH gunboat is keeping the "pirates" at bay in Europe's richest fishing grounds. The Eithne, flagship of the republic's overstretched navy, is the latest threat to their way of life.

The Irish Naval Service admits it is under strain. It badly needs a new vessel for guarding its fishing waters, and as an incentive to European purse-strings holders it has suggested that it could be built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in staunchly loyalist east Belfast.

The republic has only seven vessels with which to patrol the Irish Box, a 200-mile zone around Ireland with rich fishing areas that the Spanish - Europe's trawler kings - are hungry to exploit.

Since January 1, under European Union regulations, 40 Spanish vessels are allowed to fish inside the box at any one time.

This has prompted anger from Irish fishermen, who accuse the Spanish of cheating and of endangering future stocks by catching undersize hake, a speciality back on the Iberian peninsula. Senior officers in the naval service deny there is conclusive evidence that since the new arrangements came into effect the Spanish have been plundering the fishing grounds, but privately admit they need at least one new patrol vessel to enforce the agreement.

They are hopeful that European Union funding of up to 75 per cent of the construction of a ship - with an estimated price tag of \$25 million - will be agreed sometime in March, and have already visited shipyards in Germany and Southampton. The Eithne, built at Cork 13 years ago, but a shipbuilding capacity no longer exists there.

As an extra incentive to the project they believe that if the contract were awarded to Harland and Wolff it would serve as a powerful step to cementing the ceasefires and building

reconciliation between the two parts of the divided island.

Since the lifting of restrictions the naval service has concentrated on the most popular area of the box, to the south and west of Ireland, according to its flag officer commanding, Commodore John Kavanagh. "We've found no illegal activity, in spite of what some media reports have claimed."

"The expected invasion by a Spanish Armada didn't take place."

That may be because the Spanish are waiting to see how well the new rules are enforced.

Last year nearly two thirds of fishing vessels arrested at sea, brought into harbour by the naval service and subsequently prosecuted, were Spanish-owned.

With the aid of two recently purchased Casa maritime patrol aircraft - bought from Spain - every vessel plying vast areas of sea can be logged, photographed and verified via a computer link at the fleet's Haulbowline base, though the Irish authorities admit

that these state-of-the-art facilities cannot prevent fishing vessels from netting illegally.

"Most times boats are entitled to be where they are fishing, so it does require boardings to discover technical infringements," said Commodore Kavanagh. "Despite what is said about the Spanish we have never discovered large quantities of undersize fish on a trawler."

He believes the Spanish receive so much criticism simply because their fleet is so large. Fourteen Irish vessels were also detained last year.

"Fishermen are the last great hunter-gatherers in western Europe," said another officer on the Eithne. "They don't like being tied down by bureaucratic regulations. The Spanish have been fishing these waters since the 18th century."

Guppy seeks damages from Mirror

Clare Dyer

DARIUS Guppy, the society fraudster freed from Ford Open Prison this week after a friend lent him £160,000 to secure his early release, yesterday issued a High Court writ against the Mirror Group.

The 30-year-old Old Etonian, who was best man at the wedding of the Princess of Wales's brother, Earl Spencer, is suing the group for alleged breach of contract after the Daily Mirror allegedly pulled out of a £75,000 deal to buy his story. David

Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, is understood to have vetoed the deal after it emerged that Mr Guppy was advanced the money by a "mystery friend" against assurances that he could repay the loan from the proceeds of selling his life story.

The money went to Lloyds, which he and an accomplice swindled in a £1.8 million gems insurance fraud, landing him with a five-year jail sentence in February 1993.

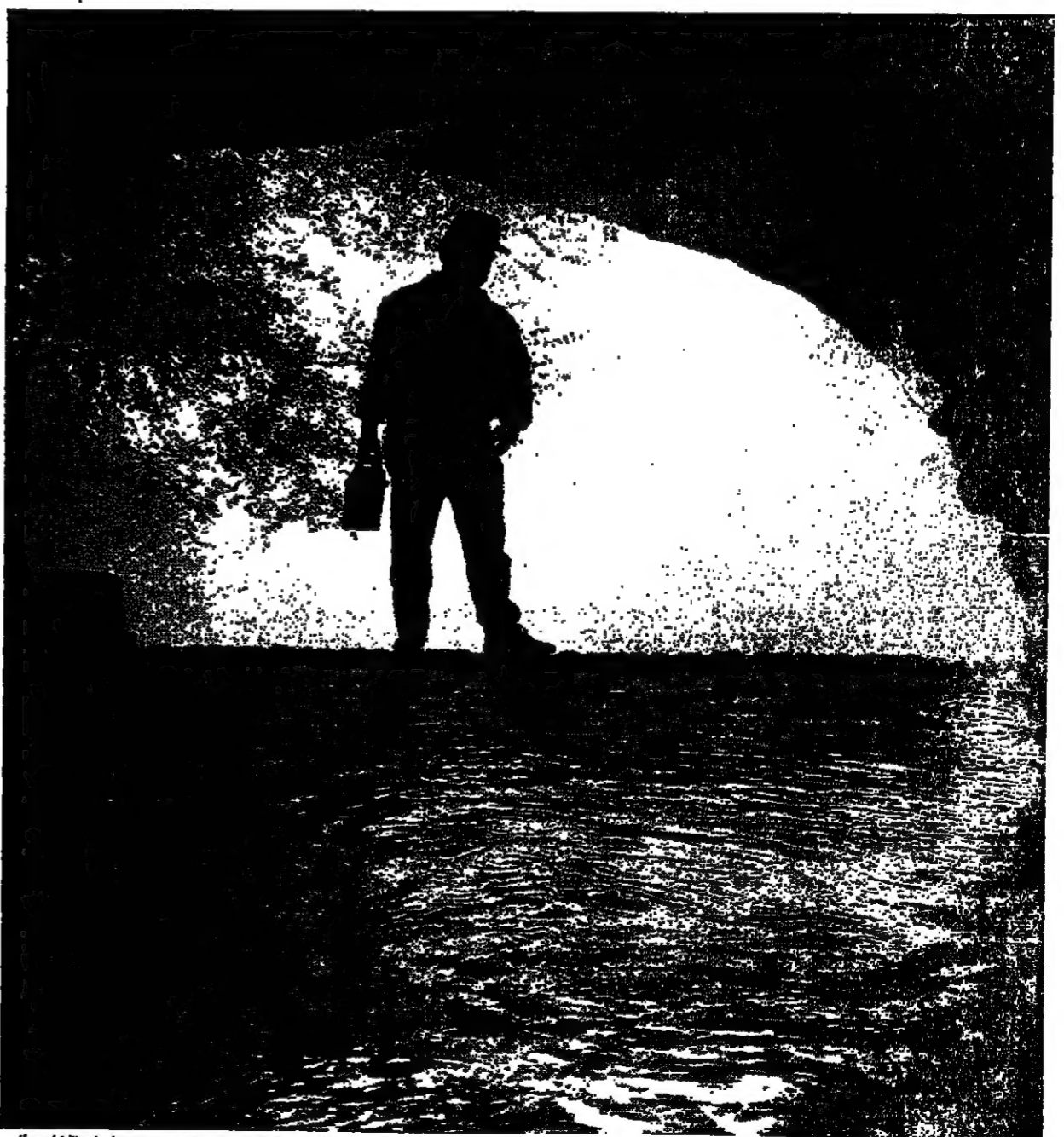
Last July he was sentenced to a further three years after claiming he was unable to repay £227,000 to Lloyds.

Although money was taken off the bill for every day he spent in jail, he said through lawyers last December that he would be unable to pay because he had been declared bankrupt. Piers Morgan, Daily Mirror editor, said last night: "The Daily Mirror has an absolute policy of not paying money to convicted criminals or their lawyers. We will be defending the writ vigorously."

The writ says that last Monday, Mr Morgan, and company solicitor Martin Crudace told Mr Guppy that the newspaper would not publish the story because Mr Mont-

gomery "considered £75,000 to be an excessive fee." It adds that Mr Guppy had an agreement that for £75,000 he granted exclusive rights to publish the "full account" of his relationship with his wife and others, details of "certain criminal offences", and his time in jail.

The Press Complaints Commission's code of practice lays down that papers should not make payments to people engaged in crime or their associates, unless publication is in the public interest. Since Mr Guppy is bankrupt, it was thought that any payment would have gone to a creditor.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Firth places great store on the contrasting powers of light and dark. He believes he is perceived as a simpler fellow on this set because he is blond and his Darcy in Pride and Prejudice owed much of its mystery to black hair dye.

Linda Blandford interviews Colin Firth

Outlook page 17



A model wearing an £875 Cara bridal gown from the Berkertex Brides collection at the National Wedding Show at Olympia, London, which ends tomorrow. The show is intended to help couples to arrange everything from stag and hen nights to honeymoon locations. PHOTOGRAPH: TRICIA LING

Labour rounds on off-the-cuff remark by Major PM says rail fraud just 'misbehaviour'

Keith Harper and Rebecca Smithers

AN OFF-THE-CUFF remark by John Major that the alleged ticket fraud on the London, Tilbury and Southend railway line was an example of "misbehaviour" sparked an attack by Labour last night.

Senior shadow cabinet ministers attacked the Prime Minister for failing to condemn criminal behaviour, and said the entire rail sell-off was "a shambles".

Mr Major's unscripted remarks came during a visit to a school near his Huntingdon constituency, when he also insisted that the privatisation timetable had not been thrown into chaos.

Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, speaking at the party's local government conference in Birmingham, said: "This isn't misbehaviour. These are serious allegations of fraud involving thousands of pounds. This is a prime minister who is weak on crime and weak on the causes of crime. And the cause of the Government's own privatisation policy — putting private greed before public need."

The shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, wrote to Mr Major, saying that he was "astonished" by his choice of language.

Alleged ticket irregularities on the line were uncovered during an internal audit by British Rail last week. Up to £45,000 in ticket money, which should have ended up with London Transport, allegedly found its way to LTS.

Mr Major went on to insist that his government would press ahead with its rail privatisation programme, but admitted that the need to seek a new company to take over the LTS franchise was "irresistible".

Some MPs noted that Mr Major had gone much further in his observation on the matter than the Transport Secretary Sir George Young, who in the Commons this week refused to be drawn on the role of individual employees, pending the outcome of the investigations.

"It [privatisation] is not off the tracks," Mr Major commented. "It has not thrown the timetable into chaos. It is tiresome that we will have to re-franchise the LTS line, but that's all."

Warning of more revelations to come, Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman said: "This is the worst setback yet to privatisation. Mr Major should be aware that this is just the start of many more humiliations."

News in brief

Gulf veterans accuse lawyers

GULF War veterans last night accused "squabbling solicitors" of delaying their flight to prove that the Ministry of Defence should compensate them for illnesses suffered after the 1991 war. One firm of solicitors has gone to the High Court to insist that a second firm should not have been awarded exclusive rights to legal aid funds worth millions of pounds.

About 720 Gulf War veterans are taking the ministry to court to prove they were negligently treated after the war. Ian Hill, chairman of the National Gulf War Veterans and Families Association, said: "The only people hurting because of this are the veterans. The Ministry of Defence must be having a good laugh at this when our solicitors can't even agree among themselves."

The High Court decision yesterday means the research money will not go to Davbarns of King's Lynn and Geoffrey Stephen and Co, Plymouth. Their tender was successfully challenged by Donn and Co of Manchester, which has about 700 Gulf War clients on its books compared with about 20 with their rivals. The Legal Aid Board has been told to start the process again. — Maggie O'Kane

Boy dies in crash

A BOY aged four died when the car in which he was being driven to school collided with an ambulance in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, yesterday. Police said his mother and baby brother were injured. A spokeswoman for Aston St Peter's school, where the dead child was a pupil, said last night his name was William Mills.

The crash, which also involved three other vehicles, happened near the school gates. The spokeswoman said the children at the school had been told what happened and had received counselling throughout the day.

Eavesdropper to apologise

THE man who eavesdropped on a mobile phone call by the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday he had been seduced by the prospect of money, and would write to him to apologise. Neville Hawkins, who lives at Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, admitted he had given in to temptation after coming across the duke's conversation while using a radio scanner at his home.

"I was seduced by money, I suppose," said Mr Hawkins in an interview with BBC Radio Norfolk. "I suppose I saw the Duke as someone you just see on TV. But I guess I realised he is a person with feelings the same as anyone else, and what I had done was wrong."

Bomb plot sentence upheld

AN IRISH university lecturer will have to continue his 95-year jail sentence for plotting a mainland bombing campaign, the Court of Appeal decided yesterday. Feilim Padraic O'Hadhmaill, aged 37, was convicted at the Old Bailey on November 8, 1994, of conspiring between January 1, 1993 and February 22, 1994 to cause an explosion.

His appeal against conviction was dismissed on February 1. A decision on his appeal against sentence was delayed until yesterday. O'Hadhmaill was a sociology lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Hooper, said: "We do not consider that this sentence was manifestly excessive, and the application for leave to appeal against it is refused."

Father jailed

THE father of a six-week-old baby boy who admitted putting an unlit cigarette in its mouth was jailed yesterday for 28 days. The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to wilfully ill-treating the child between September 10 and October 12 last year.

Maidstone magistrates were told that he threw the baby into the air, held him upside down and placed a cigarette in his mouth. Diane Ginever, defending, said the man and his 19-year-old partner had been "unprepared for the relentless demands of being parents." "There was no physical injury to the baby and, I suspect, no psychological damage either." He was remanded in custody pending an appeal against sentence.

Holiday for Gromit

THE animator Nick Park, who created Wallace and Gromit, is to make a full-length animated film, it was announced yesterday. Park, who scooped four awards for A Close Shave at Thursday's British Animation Awards, said the project would take two years. It will not feature Wallace and Gromit.

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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

Nazi-hunter becomes the quarry

Simon Wiesenthal's 50-year record comes under serious scrutiny as a pack of critics dismiss him as a tragic bungler in a prime-time documentary on German television. Ian Traynor in Bonn reports



Top of wanted list... Adolf Eichmann, Martin Bormann and Josef Mengele, left to right

SIMON Wiesenthal was being treated in a Viennese hospital yesterday at the age of 87 as controversy raged over his record and celebrated Nazi-hunting sleuth. It followed the screening of a prime-time German television documentary which featured interviews with rival Nazi-hunters from the United States, France, and Israel's Mossad intelligence service, all of whom were scathing of Mr Wiesenthal's 50-year career in tracking down war criminals. Mr Wiesenthal's lawyers were understood to be considering legal action against the makers of the 20-minute Panorama documentary broadcast by the Hamburg-based North German Broadcasting television network on Thursday night. "Incompetent", "unprofessional", and "tragic figure" were some of the milder terms used to describe Mr Wiesenthal. He was accused of inflating his own role in the Mossad capture of Adolf Eichmann, one of Hitler's key henchmen, in Argentina, of providing wrong and useless information in the hunt for Martin Bormann, and the Nazi doctor, Josef Mengele, who performed gruesome medical experiments on concentration camp inmates. Eichmann was tried in Israel and executed in 1961; Bormann is now known to have died in Berlin in 1945, and Mengele died in Brazil in 1979. The programme also revisited the bitter row surround-

ing the former Austrian president, Kurt Waldheim, cleared of war crimes in the 1980s but found to have covered up his wartime past as a German intelligence officer in the Balkans. The sensitivity of the subject and its prime-time screening in Germany led to intervention by the office of the chancellor, Helmut Kohl, after Mr Wiesenthal had apparently contacted Mr Kohl to express concern about the programme. A Kohl aide telephoned the programme-makers twice to inquire about their sources of information. "The position of the editorial staff here is that there was no pressure from the German government to prevent the show being run."

Investigations (OSI), whose 1993 book, *Betrayal*, is an indictment of Mr Waldheim and Mr Wiesenthal's role in the Austrian scandal. Mr Wiesenthal told an acquaintance 10 days ago that he refused to take part in the programme because he knew it was to serve up his critics en masse. The producers said they tried countless times to get him to appear. In his absence, the film was spliced with recurring footage of the elderly Nazi-hunter stating "There can be no compromise with the truth", before cutting to another interviewee alleging that Mr Wiesenthal had for decades been more than economical with the truth. The centre of his one-man

truth about something, I did this show to prevent it being used by neo-Nazis." He quoted Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress — friend of Mr Wiesenthal's — as telling him: "If you set yourself up as a moral arbiter, you have to be judged by that standard." Mr Lingens allowed that "vanity and self-deception" on Mr Wiesenthal's part may have led him to exaggerate his claims or inflate his own importance, but he described the documentary as "one-sided and manipulative", a vehicle for the World Jewish Congress's long campaign to discredit Mr Wiesenthal. Neal Sher, who led the OSI investigation into Mr Waldheim, resulting in the former Austrian president being barred from entering the US and then being more or less quarantined internationally, told the programme that Mr Wiesenthal had repeatedly urged him "not to take action against Waldheim, and suggesting to do so would hurt my office".

'Neo-Nazis are never helped by telling the truth. I did this programme to prevent it being used by neo-Nazis'

said John Goetz, one of the programme's co-producers. Character assassination or exposure? All of the interviewees are known to have waged long-running feuds and vendettas against Mr Wiesenthal. They included Beate Klarsfeld, the French Nazi-hunter, Isser Harel, the retired Mossad chief who headed the Eichmann capture operation and has been hopping mad for decades over Mr Wiesenthal's perceived effort to take the credit for the spectacular kidnapping, and Eli Rosenbaum, the head of the US justice department's Office of Special

operation, a dingy cramped office in central Vienna, was inundated with Shaxes from anonymous neo-Nazis yesterday, Mr Wiesenthal's secretary said. Peter-Michael Lingens, deputy editor of the Viennese newspaper, *Der Standard*, who did research for Mr Wiesenthal more than 30 years ago and retains close contact with him, said he expected Austria's populist far-right leader, Jörg Haider, to exploit the programme's message. But Mr Goetz, the co-producer, said: "Neo-Nazis are never helped by telling the



One-man operation... Simon Wiesenthal, from his cramped Vienna office, invariably failed to furnish concrete evidence against alleged war criminals, US investigators claim

Crusade of one who survived 'mountain of death' camp

Nella Pick

SIMON Wiesenthal is the most famous survivor of Mauthausen, the concentration camp known as the "mountain of death", liberated by General Patton's forces on the eve of VE Day near Hitler's birthplace of Linz. Mr Wiesenthal had been in forced-labour and concentration camps since 1941. He was brought to Mauthausen in February 1945. The gas chamber was working at full capacity, but inmates still alive were starving. When the Americans arrived on May 7, 1945, the skeletal Mr Wiesenthal, whose weight had fallen to 99lb, was lying on his bunk with corpses that had not been removed. Stumbling into the yard, he saw a big grey tank with the American flag waving from the turret. Next morning, he told an American doctor he wanted to be taken to the US command. He was carried to the office of Colonel Richard Seibel, the leader of the US forces in the camp. There Mr Wiesenthal learned the Americans were already interrogating suspected war criminals. Finding a vacant chair in the interrogation room, Mr Wiesenthal slumped down. "There were two uniformed Americans and one in civilian dress, and they brought in a number of chained US men and questioned them. This was the US war crimes unit at work. What I was witnessing was the stuff of dreams, something that I would never have thought, during all the years in the camps, could happen in real life. "Every day I went to watch the interrogations, and every day I asked them to let me work for the war crimes unit." After some days, the Americans agreed. It was the beginning of a Nazi-hunting mission that was to become a lifetime crusade.

Germany honours US 'hero of art'

TORRENCE Petty in Bonn

AN AMERICAN second world war veteran, who received a medal from the German government yesterday for resisting a 1945 US army order, said before it was hung round his neck: "No one should ever take cultural property." Walter Farmer, aged 84, fought the Germans and then became director of a US military "collecting point" in Wiesbaden where art treasures were being temporarily stored. He is credited by Germany with being instrumental in keeping the occupying US army from taking paintings by Rembrandt, Dürer, Botticelli and other masters as war booty. Mr Farmer said he could take only partial credit. A total of 35 American soldiers, all part of a US military "Monuments" unit whose job was to safeguard art treas-

ures hidden by the Nazis after the war, protested against the army's orders to send the paintings to the US. Mr Farmer said all of his group had put their careers on the line. But when it came to art, "I wouldn't fear the devil himself," he said. Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, draped the ribboned Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit around his neck at the government's opulent guest house on a mountain overlooking the Rhine. German museum authorities, politicians and an official from the US embassy attended the ceremony. Germany hopes Russia will take note and relinquish a hoard of cultural treasures confiscated by the Red Army during and after the war. "We are here today to pay tribute to the courageous and honorable captain who in the winter of 1945, following the darkest period in Germany's history, stood up for our heri-

itage," Mr Kinkel said. He compared Mr Farmer to an 18th-century Prussian officer, Friedrich von Marwitz, who was dismissed by Frederick the Great for refusing to loot a castle. Standing up to a superior's orders in the name of art takes guts, Mr Kinkel told Mr Farmer. Mr Farmer's engineering unit landed in Normandy in 1944. He later transferred to the Monuments unit and was made director of the Wiesbaden collecting point in 1945. He ordered US army tanks placed around the building, surrounded it with an electric fence and posted GIs and German police officers as guards. "Our greatest fear was being looted," he said. On November 6 1945, he was ordered to prepare for Russia. He said no. But he had some advice for the Russians. "They should feel the same way I felt — about stolen art, and return it — AP.

back to the Berlin museum that owned them because some US officials had been talking about keeping German-owned art as war reparations. "I burst into tears. But I realised tears would accomplish nothing," he said. He telephoned Monuments officers in Paris, Berlin and elsewhere in Europe. They rushed to Wiesbaden and the following day drew up a document protesting against the order. Other Monuments officers sent letters supporting the "Wiesbaden Manifesto". The paintings were sent anyway. But the manifesto created a huge stir and the art was returned to Germany within four years. After the ceremony, Mr Farmer was asked if he felt Germany was using him to win back art treasures held in Russia. He said no. But he had some advice for the Russians. "They should feel the same way I felt — about stolen art, and return it — AP.

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Spain hits back over Belgian court ruling

STEPHEN Bates in Brussels

THE diplomatic row between Spain and Belgium over a Brussels court's decision to free two suspected Basque terrorists instead of extraditing them escalated last night as Spain announced that it was suspending a crucial immigration agreement among key European Union countries. The decision to suspend part of the Schengen agreement relating to Belgium will complicate journeys made by Belgians to Spain and will require them once more to show their passports as they move through immigration controls. Spain is stopping all cooperation between the two countries' judicial systems. It will also suspend an extradition agreement with Belgium which has already refused to hand over a Belgian being held in Spain. Spain has temporarily withdrawn its ambassador in protest at the decision by the Belgian State Council not to deport the terrorist suspects.

Holbrooke warns Serbs

TERENCE Gallagher in Budapest and Guy Dismore in Sarajevo

THE United States will brook no challenges to the Bosnian peace settlement, the US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, the main architect of the Dayton peace accord, said yesterday. Mr Holbrooke, who travels to Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb over the weekend to try to prevent the settlement unravelling, said in Budapest: "The US will not tolerate the kind of threats that some of the Bosnian Serbs have been making." Mr Holbrooke addressed a news conference after meeting the Hungarian foreign minister, Laszlo Kovacs. "Right now we are encountering some serious challenges to Dayton," he added, citing unrest in the southern city of Mostar and problems over Bosnian Serban soldiers detained by the Bosnian government for alleged war crimes. Nato said yesterday it had lost communication with senior Bosnian Serb army

commanders, a development which Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the Nato ground commander in Bosnia, called ominous. General Radko Mladic, the main Serb commander, earlier ordered the suspension of all contacts with Nato until two of his officers and at least six other Bosnian Serb soldiers detained by the Muslim-led government in connection with war crimes were released. "I certainly don't think we want to underestimate the dangers of this situation," Gen. Walker said, describing the cutting of contacts as the Serbs' "first willful sign of non-compliance" with the requirements of the Dayton peace accord. But despite attempts by Gen Mladic to stop Serb civilians crossing the dividing lines with Muslim-Croat territory in Bosnia, Serbs continued to cross. "The border will not be closed," Maksim Stanisic, mayor of the Serb-held part of Sarajevo, said. A key principle of the Dayton peace is free movement across former front lines. One Serb civilian in Ilidza,

a Serb suburb of the Bosnian capital, said he hoped people would continue to cross freely. "During the war Mladic was God. But now he is not. There is a big question mark over him," he said. On his first visit to Sarajevo, Prince Charles expressed his horror yesterday at the hurt done to the people and the cultural monuments of the Bosnian capital. Wading through thick snow and debris in the burnt-out remains of Sarajevo's once-proud National Library, Prince Charles expressed "horror at the wanton destruction not only of buildings like this but also of peoples' lives". As part of his tour to Croatia and Bosnia, Prince Charles inspected the war-damaged cathedral, palaces and monasteries of the medieval port city of Dubrovnik in Croatia on Thursday. Yesterday he met senior British commanders, including Gen Walker, and inspected some of the British troops stationed in Sarajevo. — Reuters.

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Making waves in a sea of troubles

John Hooper, southern Europe correspondent, looks at the bristling tension over contested territories between two Nato allies

RICHARD Holbrooke, the American diplomat who won global acclaim for brokering the Bosnia peace deal, should have been landing in Ankara later today, at the start of an even more ambitious initiative. His stated aim: to lay the foundations for a lasting settlement between Greece and Turkey before his departure from the state department 11 days later.



Admiral Christos Lyberis: first casualty of islet spat

Secretary of state into the thick of the Greece-Turkish imbroglio, winning him renewed praise and respect. On January 30, he worked till midnight to defuse the crisis in telephone calls to Athens and Ankara.

would no longer focus on Cyprus, but on differences such as the one that had just brought Greece and Turkey to the brink of armed conflict. For Greeks, there is nothing to discuss. Athens (see right) maintains that Imia was ceded to it in 1947 along with the main islands of the Dodecanese, off the Turkish coast.

Earlier this week, after the Greek government refused to see him, Mr Holbrooke cancelled his entire mission. Quite unexpectedly, a glittering run at the state department was set to end on a note of failure.

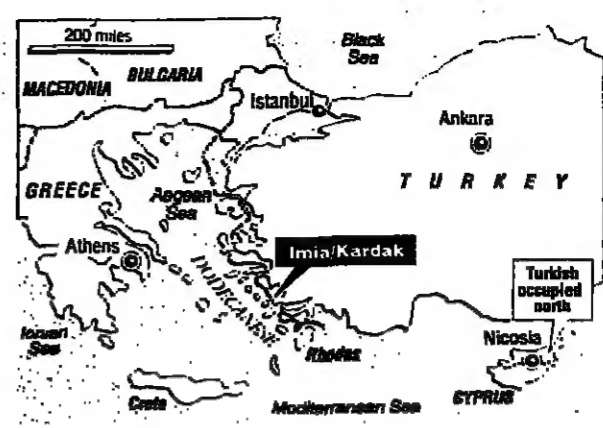
Late on Thursday, controversy re-erupted when Mr Simitis sacked his armed forces chief of staff, Admiral Christos Lyberis. Official sources have said he was furious with the admiral for hinting to the media that the government had prevented a military response.

It can be argued that this odd affair has shown the brass — indeed brutal — “anti-diplomacy” which yielded such astonishing results in Bosnia, has strictly limited application. But it has also underlined the correctness of the Mr Holbrooke’s analysis — that, following Dayton, the multi-sided Graeco-Turkish conundrum is the gravest problem demanding solution by the US and its allies.

More immediately, the outcome of the election, in which no party won an outright majority, risks pitching the country into a period of sustained instability. More than a month on, the politicians in Ankara still cannot agree on a coalition.



Flag day... Turkish Cypriot villagers welcome Turkish troops on the Kyrenia-Nicosia road during their invasion of the island in 1974. Despite its continuing division, Cyprus is on course for European Union membership as early as 1998



Isles torn by geography and politics

THE continuing row over the islands of the Dodecanese seems pointless, even childish — until you look at a map. Imia, or Kardak, the islet which sparked off the latest dispute, is less than four miles from the Turkish coast.

The invasion of the newly born Turkish state by Greek troops in 1919 left, deep in the national psyche, a conviction that it would always be vulnerable to attack from the Aegean. Despite the growth of Turkey’s military might since then, the diplomatic resolution of two world wars has served to keep that sensitivity alive.

Cascade of Nato weapons

TURKEY and Greece are steadily upgrading their armed forces at a time when most west European countries are cutting their defence budgets.

They are among the world’s biggest importers of conventional weapons. And despite the long history of antagonism between them, they have been fed many of their arms without charge by Nato, under its “Cascade” programme to dispose of weapons shed under the treaty on Con-

ventional Forces in Europe. Turkey, by far the biggest beneficiary, received more than 1,017 main battle tanks, almost as many as the entire British tanks inventory, 600 armoured vehicles and 70 artillery pieces in 1993, according to submissions to the United Nations register of conventional arms. Even the UN register does not paint an accurate picture as both countries underreport their arms imports, according to military sources.

John Roper of the Royal Institute of International Affairs noted that “because Greece is a member of the EU and Turkey is not, the Aegean issue has tended to be dealt with in Nato, of which both countries are members. I understand that Nato’s secretary-general, Javier Solana, spoke to senior people in both governments.”

The Europeans can also argue that, because of Mr Holbrooke, they have been lured into what one called a “possibly very dangerous game” on Cyprus. According to American sources, it was Mr Hol-

brooke who last year played the key role in getting EU governments to accept a trade-off demanded by Athens: talks on the accession of Cyprus in return for lifting Greece’s veto on the customs union sought by Turkey.

rather the Greek Cypriot zone, run by the Cyprus government — has a strong economy. “We estimate that the accession negotiations should take no more than two years,” says the Cyprus government’s foreign minister, Alesos Michaelides. Cyprus, therefore, could be in the EU before the turn of the century.

For many member states, that is a terrifying prospect. The island is divided by barbed wire, and more than a third of it is occupied by Turkish soldiers.

With Greek Cypriots yearning for access to the Turkish-occupied north, a showdown between the EU and Turkey would become inevitable as soon as they attempted to exercise their right to freedom of movement within the EU.

Mr Holbrooke is said to have argued that an inexorable approaching deadline could nevertheless be used to solve the Cyprus dispute.

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Ayr card

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1.00 Maiden Handicap (10) 2m 21.50s

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Racing

Conditions look right for Pridwell to plunder Gold

Chris Hawkins

AGAINST all the odds today's Tote Gold Trophy (Europe's richest handicap hurdle) has survived, but if the forecast overnight rain materialises the going at Newbury is likely to be very soft or even heavy.

no chance on the book with Pridwell (now 18lb better off) on Haydock form last month. That was Moorish's first run of the season, but he finished tailed off behind Myself, a race in which Pridwell was third.

seldom represent value for money in big handicaps. Squire Silk is a much more experienced hurdler and has won nine of his 20 starts (four of them on soft or heavy ground). He ran on well when fourth in Dance Royal in the Clontarf Hurdle last month and must have a serious chance now.

this afternoon. Lack of rain will negate much of this discussion, but Pridwell (2.15) to beat Squire Silk and Nijmegen is my idea of the outcome if the mud is lying.

Catterick

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Southwell (A.W. Flat)

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Results

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Uttoxeter off

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Newbury with TV form

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Colony Good to soft (harder soft in home straight), 4. Dances Mithras.

BBC-1

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Leopardstown tomorrow

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Large advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'United £65m jackpot', 'Call to protect attacks Euro', 'A N Other', and 'From just'.

William Hill report support for Young Hustler in the Grand National and now quote him 14/1 favourite from 16-1.

Call to protect attacks Euro

A N Other

From just

RAC

77 SAT. TODAY ARRIVED

Soccer

United hit £65m jackpot

Ian Ross and Martin Thorpe

THE ever-widening financial gap between soccer's rich and poor was highlighted yesterday when Manchester United signed a sponsorship deal worth £55 million - the biggest in the British game's history.

warned clubs to make sure that any foreign players they were thinking of buying met the Department for Employment's strict criteria - otherwise they would not be granted a work permit.

Call to protect poor as Fifa attacks European shake-up

FIFA has criticised Uefa's plans to expand its club competition to give more places to wealthy teams, warning that action could be taken to protect the game's poorer sectors.

Ten countries, including England, Scotland, France, Italy and Germany, will meet in Windsor to formulate a united policy on Bosman to be presented to Uefa on February 16.

A N Other

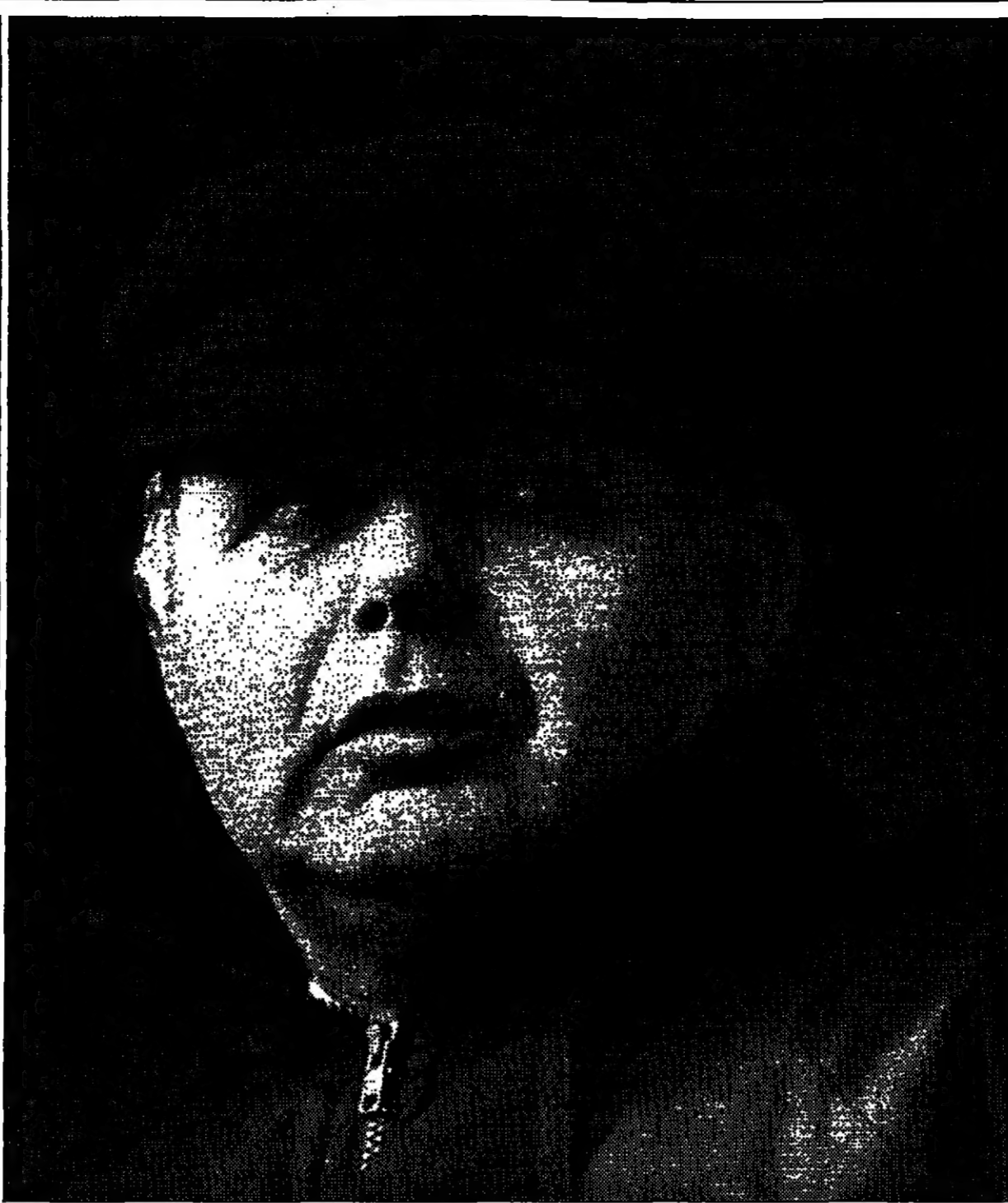
HE SOUNDED angelic and canonisation was to follow, yet this solid son of Dundee soon convinced opponents that as a footballer he possessed more earthly qualities.

Celtic's knack of coming back satisfies Burns

AS SNOW-clearing operation at Brockville, where Falkirk entertain Celtic, has enabled the Old Firm's rivalry for the Scottish title to continue apace in a Premier Division programme today which is likely to beat the weather.



Performance of the week: Ruud Gullit (Chelsea), the master of Middlesbrough last Sunday.



Calm before the storm... but watch for fireworks from Fry if his side scores first tomorrow

Fry aching to rub shoulders with the Premiership giants

Cynthia Bateman on the manager hoping the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Leeds United will provide a boost for the Blues

TRYING to talk to Barry Fry is like trying to swat a butterfly. Every time you think you have him in the net... whoops, there he goes again.

is my life. I know that one day I'll jump up to celebrate a goal and I'll drop dead. But I want to go out on a high note.

He already had a squad of 45 professionals on his books and this week he added Vinny Samways, John Sheridan and the Peterborough defender Gary Breen.

'My missus thinks I'm selfish and should think more about the kids, but the game is my life'

Shield in front of 51,000 of their fans. But this season Fry, the club's owner David Sullivan and the chief-executive Karam Brady set their sights on bigger prizes.

best Manchester United. Samways's move has been on the cards for some time and he was prepared to take a substantial wage drop to join City.

He believes that City's co-owners, Sullivan and the Gold brothers, David and Ralph, whose money it is, must make up their minds whether they really want City to move into the big time.

Watch out for a bundle of enthusiasm exploding from the dug-out if City go in front tomorrow.

Watch out for a bundle of enthusiasm exploding from the dug-out if City go in front tomorrow. The Leeds game will be their 45th of the season, and Fry is concerned that his players, who took their neighbours West Bromwich Albion to extra-time in the Anglo-Italian Cup, are suffering not only from match fatigue but over-exposure to yellow cards.

Kit cat cops cup kudos

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

OLD Isleworthians have reached the final of the West Middlesex League's Ace Awards Open Cup. Is it thanks to their players? Or their coach? No. It is all down to the fact that the manager's mum's cat peed on the club kit.

Diane. "Even her dad says to her, you're to blame. She doesn't think she is and says, well at least Paul Mardon still loves me. He was with her when she was the mascot."

GIVEN that two Charlton players, including Lee Bowyer, were found guilty of taking a £100,000 bribe to sign for an unfortunat headline that appeared on the Croydon Advertiser report of their game with Crystal Palace last Sunday.

CELTIIC have taken on exactly the right man should they ever get into financial trouble again. Their new director Brian Quinn was previously in charge of banking supervision over three of the biggest banking scandals of the last 10 years.

A STRANGE chant can often be heard from Watford's Vicarage Road end: "Old git, old git, give us a wave."

IF Birmingham City were to win the Coca-Cola Cup, writes Nick McKenna of Abingdon, and then went on to beat Galatasaray in the Uefa Cup, would the headline be "Fry's Turkish Delight". These jokes get worse.

THE secret is out about the reason for West Bromwich Albion's dramatic slump which has taken them from second top to second bottom of the First Division. It is all the fault of Laura Shaw, aged three.

Quite logical really. Little Laura, who is Baggies mad, was the team's mascot at Millwall on October 28 since when West Brom have taken just one point from 14 league games, the worst run in the club's 116-year history.

Laura's two sisters Emma, 11, and Amy, 7, and her dad Paul are also West Brom mad, and they have been pointing the finger. "The other two keep blaming her," said Laura's mum.

TEAM SHEET

Bolton v Aston Villa The earlier league and defender Blizak are doubtful for both sides.

D-D FA Cup tie against Wimbledon which is a Norwegian international fixture.

Coventry City v Chelsea Chelsea could be promoted from the bench for Coventry to replace the 38-year-old assistant manager Ericsson.

Nottingham Forest v Arsenal Stone could return after missing Forest's last three matches with a foot injury.

Everton v Manchester City Ribout is out of Everton's forward line with a thigh strain.

Sheff Wed v Wimbledon The Yugoslav international Kovacic and Dusanovic are likely to return to David Pleet's team.

Manchester Utd v Blackburn May is set to face his former team-mate as the answer to Alex Ferguson's defensive problems.

QPR v Liverpool Bartley returns to full-back after injury to Ray Wilkins' troubled Rangers.

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CRICKET: THE SIXTH WORLD CUP

Curtain up on the one-day circus. Our writers assess two key players and, below, Mike Selvey and David Hopps weigh the merits of the competing nations

World goes in to bat on a sticky wicket

OF ALL six World Cups this, the second to be held on the sub-continent could prove to be the most acrimonious. Its conception, involving wheeler-dealing and inducements, was not the happiest of bases. Now, with security taking a priority over practice facilities which they will be at best distracted and at worst, it seems, not even there.

Lanka, when newspaper articles began talking of a \$100 million bonanza, compared to the \$9 million at most that accrued from the previous effort on the sub-continent. That return in 1987, it was freely admitted at the time, was no adequate return on the premier competition in world cricket but, with the help of some pretty sturdy interests — the Mark McCormack Group, IMG, has been employed to handle the Pakistan side of things — no such mistakes are going to be made this time.

Television rights are astronomical, sponsorship abundant, marketing and merchandising advanced and peripheral opportunities everywhere; for example, a hotel in Chandigarh, venue for a semi-final and a city not exactly replete in five-star accommodation, has attempted (unsuccessfully) to extort \$500 per night from travelling groups for a room.

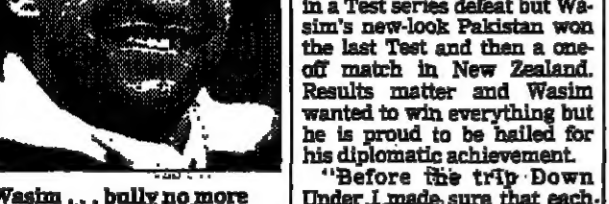
was still an occasion, in front of a full Eden Gardens in Calcutta and every bit as magical as the last final under lights in Melbourne. This time the stories have been much the same with, for example, major building work still going on at the stadium in Lahore that will stage the final. And rest assured that the painters will still be there at the ground in Ahmedabad on Tuesday night, just hours before England and New Zealand contest the first of the 37 matches that will be played in 27 venues. But in the end things seem to be done. This tournament, conceived in arrogance, will work simply because it has to. The loss of face should it not be successful would be too horrible to contemplate.

Pakistan looks to Wasim to restore national pride

Paul Allott on the all-rounder who came of age as captain and diplomat in Australia

ALWAYS thought I would be asked to lead Pakistan in the World Cup," said Wasim Akram, "but I needed a test of character — a hard tour, to prepare myself." He got his wish in Australia — with a vengeance. Last October Pakistan were in turmoil. They had lost their first home Test series for 15 years — to Sri Lanka of all people. They also lost the one-day series. This was bad enough but worse were lingering stories of betting and bribery on the earlier Australia tour of Pakistan. Tim May and Shane Warne alleged

member of the team realised that this was going to be a bridge-building tour. Pakistan were perceived very poorly in world cricket. Australia was going to be extraordinarily uncomfortable if we didn't make friends, with crowds and players alike. "I attempted to instill in the players the ideals of positive cricket, being aggressive and hard on the field but approachable and sociable off it. I was always first into the Australian dressing-room at close of play to share a cola or two with them."



Wasim Akram, a bully no more

they had been offered huge sums to throw games. Nothing was proved but Salim Malik was relieved of the Pakistan captaincy pending an investigation by the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan. Salim was then picked to tour Australia, whose press was still baying for his blood. It was hardly an ideal scenario for Wasim as incoming captain: poor results, disillusioned players, a disenchanted public at home and a distinctly hostile one waiting in Australia. Yet, far from flinching at the prospect of becoming his country's captain and ambassador, he relished it.

quivering batsman. The next over might find him bowling each ball gun-barrel straight, as if to demonstrate his exceptional talent. His Yorker is phenomenal, giving the waiting batsman a feeling that John Major might understand with a general election looming; he knows it is coming but cannot do anything about it.



All-out effort... Wasim collides with New Zealand's Chris Harris in the 1992 World Cup semi-final

Australia

THE more England ridicules Australians as wimps for refusing to play in Sri Lanka, the more likely they are to establish their reputation in Asia in 1987. Victorious under Allan Border in Asia in 1987, Australia have the ability to repeat their success under the more subtle leadership of Mark Taylor. The decisive replacement of the veteran Boon by the brilliant youngster Ponting, the return of Bevan and the introduction of one-day specialists, Law and Lee, in the middle order ensure that Australia will field (and doubtless bat) brilliantly. But who knows whether Warne's nerve will hold after his bribery allegations against Salim Malik? Australia pray that the draw keeps them away from Pakistan until the final.

Pakistan

IMRAN KHAN'S famous "cornered tigers" speech roused them from the depths last time, and they beat England in a memorable final. World Cup winners, and recent victors in the Asia Cup, Pakistan have the potential to repeat their success in the 1996 World Cup. The team's captain, Wasim Akram, is a batsman, left-arm medium pace bowler. Played the first of his 24 Tests in 1986-87, since which he has played more often in the Pakistan limited overs team.

India

INDIA'S build-up to the World Cup has been light, with only a short rain-affected Test series against New Zealand to detract from them. Unless pre-tournament rehearsals have wrought a transformation, inferior fielding risks a scornful reaction from partisan crowds. Kapil Dev has not been satisfactorily replaced as an all-rounder. But major advantage is considerable, especially outside the home centres; and, if Tendulkar thrives as an opening batsman, runs should be plentiful.

South Africa

STILL chattering on about the rain rule that they firmly believe robbed them of a place in the final, and with the national rugby and soccer teams displaying silverware, desperately to make amends now. Along with Australia they are light years ahead of the opposition in preparation, coaching and attention to detail. Spunked England last month, so current form appears to be good.

Mark Taylor, (capt), age 31, left-hand batsman. Struggled to establish himself in Australia's one-day side early in his international career but Taylor has since blossomed as a limited-overs batsman after assuming the captaincy from Allan Border two years ago. He is shrewd tactician. One-day internationals played: 69. Runs: 2,834 (HS 97), ave: 33.34.

Michael Slater, 25, right-hand batsman. Unchallenged as Test opener, Slater has led on one-day cricket. Dropped during recent World Series. Played: 33. Runs: 765 (HS 73), ave: 23.18.

Wasim Akram (capt), age 29, left-hand batsman, left-arm fast bowler. First named captain in 1987 he was replaced a year following a players' revolt but was appointed for a second spell last October. Bowling off a shortish run, he produces pace, swing and bounce, with a telling yorker. Can be an explosive batsman. Played: 121. Runs: 2,391 (HS 124), ave: 26.56. Wkts: 3 (BB 2-31), ave: 90.66.

Saeed Anwar, 27, left-hand batsman, slow left-arm bowler. First named captain in 1987 he was replaced a year following a players' revolt but was appointed for a second spell last October. Bowling off a shortish run, he produces pace, swing and bounce, with a telling yorker. Can be an explosive batsman. Played: 193. Runs: 1,748 (HS 88), ave: 14.55. Wkts: 282 (BB 5-15), ave: 22.90.

Mohammed Azharuddin (capt), age 32, right-hand batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler. Played the first of his 24 Tests in 1986-87, since which he has played more often in the Pakistan limited overs team. Played: 121. Runs: 2,391 (HS 124), ave: 26.56. Wkts: 3 (BB 2-31), ave: 90.66.

Mohammed Azharuddin (capt), age 32, right-hand batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler. Played the first of his 24 Tests in 1986-87, since which he has played more often in the Pakistan limited overs team. Played: 121. Runs: 2,391 (HS 124), ave: 26.56. Wkts: 3 (BB 2-31), ave: 90.66.

Hansie Cronje (capt), age 26, right-hand batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler. Led his country to a recent double triumph over England, taking the Test series 1-0 and one-day series 6-1. After struggling for runs in the Tests, started to show return to form during limited-overs games. Played in the last World Cup in 1992. Played: 77. Runs: 2,263 (HS 112), ave: 35.92. Wkts: 54 (BB 2-51), ave: 33.93.

Steve Pollack, 22, right-hand batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler. Played in the last World Cup in 1992. Played: 77. Runs: 2,263 (HS 112), ave: 35.92. Wkts: 54 (BB 2-51), ave: 33.93.

Michael Bevan, 25, left-hand batsman, slow left-arm bowler. Forced his way back into Australia's one-day team this season, regarding the selectors' faith by being dismissed only twice in 10 innings to help his side lift the World Series trophy. Played: 25. Runs: 821 (HS 78), ave: 32.84. Wkts: 6 (BB 3-31), ave: 31.00.

Shane Warne, 26, right-hand batsman, leg-spinner. Match-winner in both Test and one-day cricket. A ball spinner of the ball, with a potent flipper, Warne also bowls with remarkable accuracy and rarely suffers heavy punishment. Played: 52. Runs: 240 (HS 55), ave: 14.12. Wkts: 87 (BB 4-19), ave: 21.49.

Wasim Akram (capt), age 29, left-hand batsman, left-arm fast bowler. First named captain in 1987 he was replaced a year following a players' revolt but was appointed for a second spell last October. Bowling off a shortish run, he produces pace, swing and bounce, with a telling yorker. Can be an explosive batsman. Played: 121. Runs: 2,391 (HS 124), ave: 26.56. Wkts: 3 (BB 2-31), ave: 90.66.

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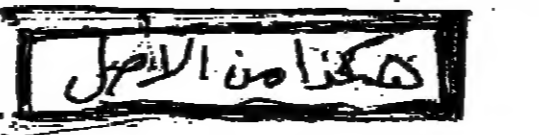
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ONE TO WATCH: Ricky Ponting Odds: 100-30 fav.

ONE TO WATCH: Wasim Akram ODDS: 7-2.

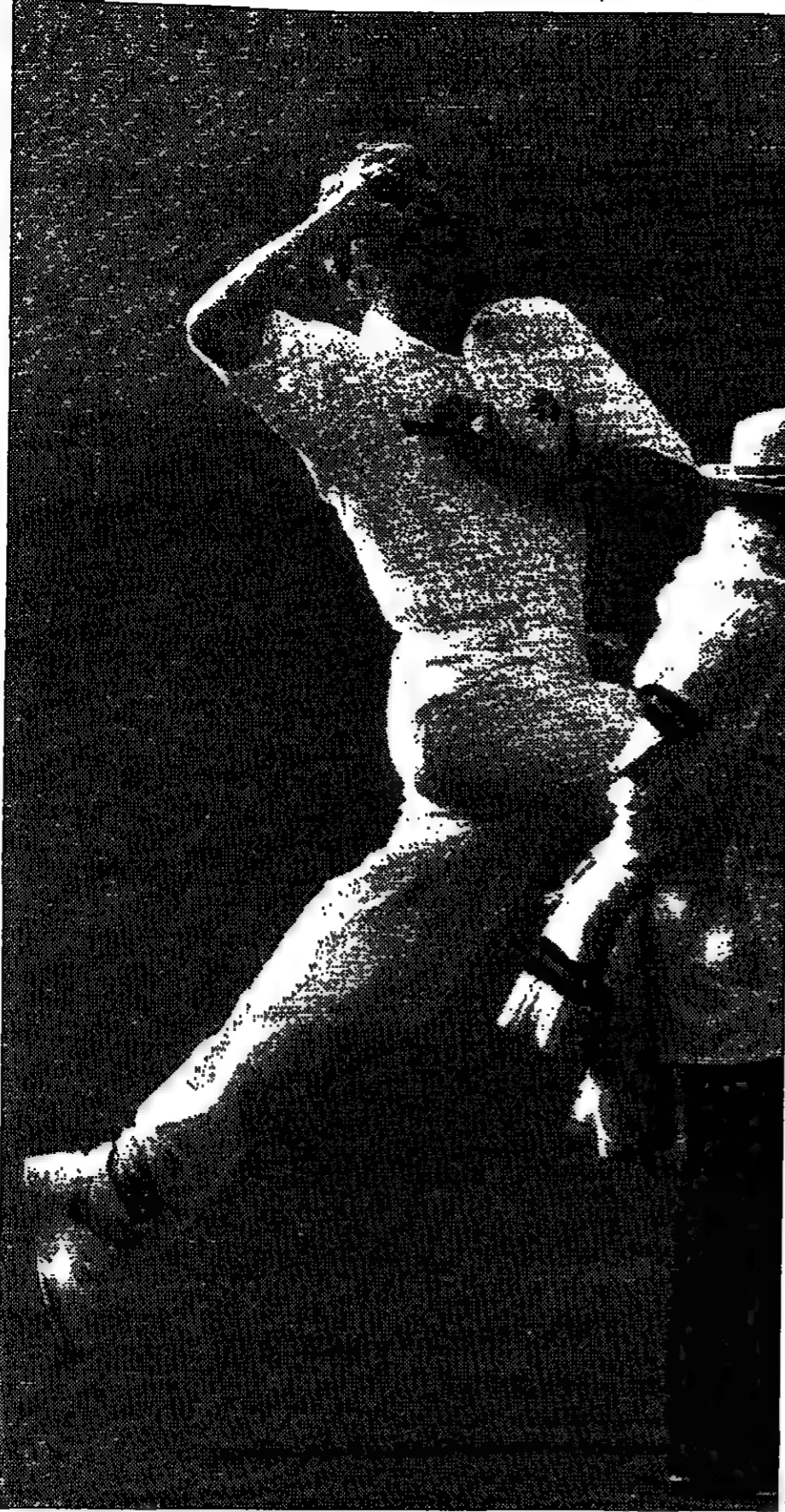
ONE TO WATCH: Kapil Dev ODDS: 5-1.

ONE TO WATCH: Paul Adams ODDS: 5-1.



CRICKET: THE SIXTH WORLD CUP

England's own 'Digger' with the heart to make a deeper impact



High ambition... hard work has raised Martin's sights and aggression

LORD Ted were still in charge he might have employed his 'Malcolm Devon' dyslexia, confirmed him as Martin Peters and told us he was 10 years ahead of his time.

Mike Selvey on Peter Martin, the Lancashire bowler who has made giant strides into the international game in nine months

KEY LORD Ted were still in charge he might have employed his 'Malcolm Devon' dyslexia, confirmed him as Martin Peters and told us he was 10 years ahead of his time.

ability to take wickets to retain his position. When he burst on the scene, his bowling was predictable, with the away swing ball pushed in from a slightly low arm and not counterbalanced by any more subtle tactical variation than simply a ball pushed in on the angle. Since then, with the help of Peter Leaver, who has coached him since he was 18, he has added a yard of pace, hits the deck harder, zips the ball around later, becoming more aggressive and positive in his self-belief.

The venues map showing cricket grounds in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies. Includes a key to venues and a list of previous World Cup venues.

The groups table listing participating teams in Group A and Group B. The schedule table listing match dates, venues, and opponents for February and March.

West Indies

BRIAN LARA has restated his admiration for the West Indian side in writing, since ending his self-imposed exile from international cricket, but it is questionable whether many spectators will be so impressed.

England

WITH three losing finals in five World Cups - the last of them in Melbourne almost four years ago - England's record in the history of the tournament is poor.

Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA's reeling prospects cannot be considered without considerable sadness. A breezy if impulsive one-day batting side - the most successful in the group stages - was particularly taken by their wicketkeeper and opening batsman Kaluwitharana.

The outsiders

New Zealand BRILLIANT innovative tactics and inspirational batting from Martin Crowe made the Kiwis the surprise package in the last World Cup. But Crowe has gone and following some controversial times recently, a resolute clear-out by the team coach Glenn Turner leaves the side with a squad that at best is enthusiastic.

17

CRICKET: Nation-by-nation guide to the sixth World Cup, pages 10-11

SOCCER: Manchester United sign £65 million sponsorship deal, page 9

Sports Guardian

World Cup set for crisis D-day

Neil Hobbsson

CRICKET's World Cup will be launched amid a blaze of colour and light in Calcutta tomorrow night when 10,000 policemen, sniffer dogs and bomb detectors will also be on hand to ensure that the opening ceremony does not add to the tournament's catalogue of woes.

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DO SOCCER CLUBS PRACTISE RACIST STEREOTYPING?



Out in the cold... young Asians above Bradford City's Valley Parade stadium, where Britain's only Asian professional plays

Meaning lost at Uefa's open door



David Lacey

EVERYBODY has won and all must have prizes. The Dodo's solution to the crisis race is now to be applied in European football because none of the powerful clubs can afford to be losers.

So the Champions' Cup will be thrown open to non-champions and in order to compete in the Cup-Winners' Cup it will no longer be necessary to win a national cup first.

joined by fellow clubs with the best domestic records over a specified period yet to be fixed. Those who argue that the Champions' Cup will not be devalued as a result have mistaken their sense of values.

It is strange but Uefa seems to suffer these upheavals whenever a major club has blown it. Milan failed to win the Italian championship last season and lost to Ajax in the European Cup final.

Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Newcastle and Rangers would join the likes of Milan, Juventus, Bayern Munich, Paris St-Germain, Ajax, Anderlecht, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Benfica, Porto and any leading club from eastern Europe that had not sold its best players.

'Asians can't play' barrier

Vivek Chaudhary on a new report which claims talented young footballers are being ignored because of their ethnic background

BRITISH Asian footballers represent a large pool of untapped domestic talent but their progress into the professional game is hampered by racial stereotyping and the current vogue for foreign players.

Half the clubs questioned said cultural differences like religion and language explained the absence of Asians from the professional game. Some officials even stated that the diet of Asian players prevented them from competing at a professional level.

than half have been playing since junior school. Just over 94 per cent said they encountered racism while playing football. More than half said they believed they had the ability to compete at some level of the professional game.

and should attempt to establish closer links with the Asian community. Scouts should start attending matches involving Asian teams and more effort is needed to eradicate racist behaviour at all levels of the game.

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£20,000 - £30,000	12.9%	£10,000	£117.71	£114.88	£116.40
£30,000 - £40,000	12.9%	£20,000	£233.82	£229.37	£232.48
£40,000 & Over	12.9%	£25,000	£291.68	£285.89	£289.36

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SEE US ON TELETEXT CHANNEL 4 PAGE 623

Asians in football

Why had families actively discouraged play?

Fear/experience of racism: 18.4%	Fear of injury: 25.6%
Ignorance of football: 19.0%	Religious issues: 6.6%
Focus on business: 3.5%	Focus on studies: 26.5%

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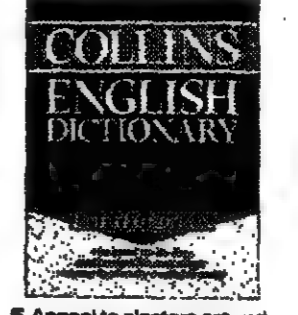
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Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,572

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,572, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JF, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday, February 19.



Name _____ Address _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10

11

12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26

- Appeal to electors around the City for birds' home (8)
- Communication about turn in house and grounds (8)
- Tried successfully to stay improper payment in trade union (8,2,7)
- Ford old man starts dying under lake in South of France (5-5)
- Told secret of trick? (10)
- Aid for foreign firm: that's what's cunning about it (8)
- Batsman's 11 with bowler? (2-3-3)
- Firm responsible for Dracula (8)
- Believer in sole revelation among thousands (8)
- A single night's depression (4)
- A lot of sleuths are bitter (4)
- Non-believer, but in God, possibly, and a tank engine (8,6)
- Dark deed, throwing out a long (5-4)
- Allowed a joint for a pound (5)
- Art making money? This is serious? (7)
- Article on play first to last makes 20 fast (7)

Set by Anacaria

Across

- Hiding a donkey is Aristotle (7)
- Mum's getting old, result of successful action (7)
- Universal whip-round for children's complaint (5)
- Abduction of the very attractive? (8)
- Lowland bird and English rose embracing - not for long (5,9)
- Bad word for coat-hanger (4)
- Marks re-talon from magistrate when upset (6)
- 'Do you come here often?' (9)

Down

- 'Then I'll get the girl, Greta Gerbo - touche end, sadly (4,6,3,6)
- S-superior repeat (6)
- Fringe county? (6)

Crossword Solution 20,572

كتابنا العربي

17

INTERVIEW
Colin Firth's long gallery of English gents

19

CONTEXT
Matthew Fort goes grubbing for Britain

21

MONEY
When the kissing stops... the hidden cost of love

24

FINANCE
Made in Israel: know-how powers economic revival

The Guardian Outlook

13
Saturday February 10
1996

Sir Richard Scott talks to RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR about the Government whispering campaign against his report on arms to Iraq, out next week. Below GEOFFREY ROBERTSON argues for the scandal to be used to prise open Whitehall

Worms turn on Scott

A MARK of Whitehall's desperation as it awaits next week's exonerating report on the arms-to-Iraq scandal is the utterly trivial and insidious nature of some aspects of its campaign against the author. Sir Richard Scott cycles to work; that shows how eccentric, how puritanical, how over-virtuous he is, say his detractors. Sir Richard sighs with a mixture of irritation and bemusement. His practice of cycling to work is "entirely pragmatic", he explains. You don't have to travel in the Underground, "to stand like veal calves in a crate". You don't have to wait around for buses, or time exactly each stage of your journey to catch the train. He mentions other judges who cycle to their chambers — the law lord, Lord Woolf, the Appeal Court judge, Leonard Hoffmann, and the High Court judge, Stephen Sedley.

He mend that never again in criminal cases should ministers be allowed to sign Public Interest Immunity certificates — so-called gagging orders — in the blanket way they did in the Matrix case, where they did not even bother to read the documents they attempted to suppress to see whether they were relevant to the defence. Sir Richard is also likely to conclude that Parliament was consistently misled. The key question is whether he believes MPs were deliberately misled by ministers, an offence which John Major has said is a resigning matter. The judge was coy in an interview with the Guardian yesterday, suggesting only that the public had benefited from a "searchlight" on a part of government. "The allegations which were being investigated were of alleged

the past three years by the growing number of ministers and civil servants who have reason to regret the decision. One view is that Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, was so concerned about the charges levelled against government lawyers during the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq trial whose collapse in November 1992 led to the setting up of the Scott inquiry — that he was determined to recommend a judge who would fearlessly go to the heart of the problem. Asked, as he always is, why he was chosen for the task, Sir Richard says: "Up to a point I don't." A judge was needed since only a judge, not a former official or minister, would be seen to be independent. Since matters of "high policy" were involved, a senior judge had to be chosen. He was picked.

Sir Richard Rashleigh Folliott Scott was born 61 years ago in Debra Dun, in the foothills of the Himalayas where his father, an accomplished horseman, was a colonel in the 2/9th Gurkha Rifles. Sir Richard spent his early years on the North West frontier in the twilight of the Raj before his father was invalided out of the Indian Army in 1942. His parents moved to South Africa, to a 500-acre farm on the Mool river in Natal. He was educated at Michaelhouse, modelled on an English public school. There he excelled both academically and at sport, including boxing, sprinting and rugby. He went on to read law at Cape Town University and in 1965 won a Commonwealth scholarship to Cambridge, where he was awarded first class honours. He also won a rugby blue as a wing forward in the 1957 varsity match against Oxford.

Sir Richard then won a fellowship to Chicago University. There he met his wife, Rima Rigoll, a New York-born Panamanian studying at nearby university and an accomplished flamenco dancer. He returned to Britain where he was qualified to practice at the Bar. "I had to earn my living," he says. He had no "great life plan", he describes his early life as an example of the "theory of drift". He was elected chairman of the Bar in 1983, where he encouraged steps to be taken to monitor the lack of advancement of black barristers. The following year, he was appointed a Chancery judge where he was admired — especially on the northern circuit — for his straight-talking. It is a quality he admires in others

A picture has been painted of a judge with delusions of grandeur, of a cavalier disregard for procedures

misdemeanour by public officials of what they had done in actions of government and government is conducted on behalf of the public. It is not the first time Sir Richard has upset the Whitehall establishment. In 1987, he roundly dismissed the Government's attempts to prevent the press from publishing the contents of Spycatcher, the memoirs of the former MI5 agent, Peter Wright. "The ability of the press freely to report allegations of scandals in government is one of the bulwarks of our democratic society," he said. "The importance to the public of this country of the allegation that members of MI5 endeavoured to undermine and destroy public confidence in an elected government makes the public the proper recipient of the information."

It is a judiciously anxious Whitehall officials awaiting his report this week might not wish to be reminded about. The context is different, but the themes of secrecy, of the Government-knows-best approach are the same. Why John Major appointed Sir Richard, a judge with a reputation for rigorous independence, to conduct the inquiry is a question that has been asked repeatedly over

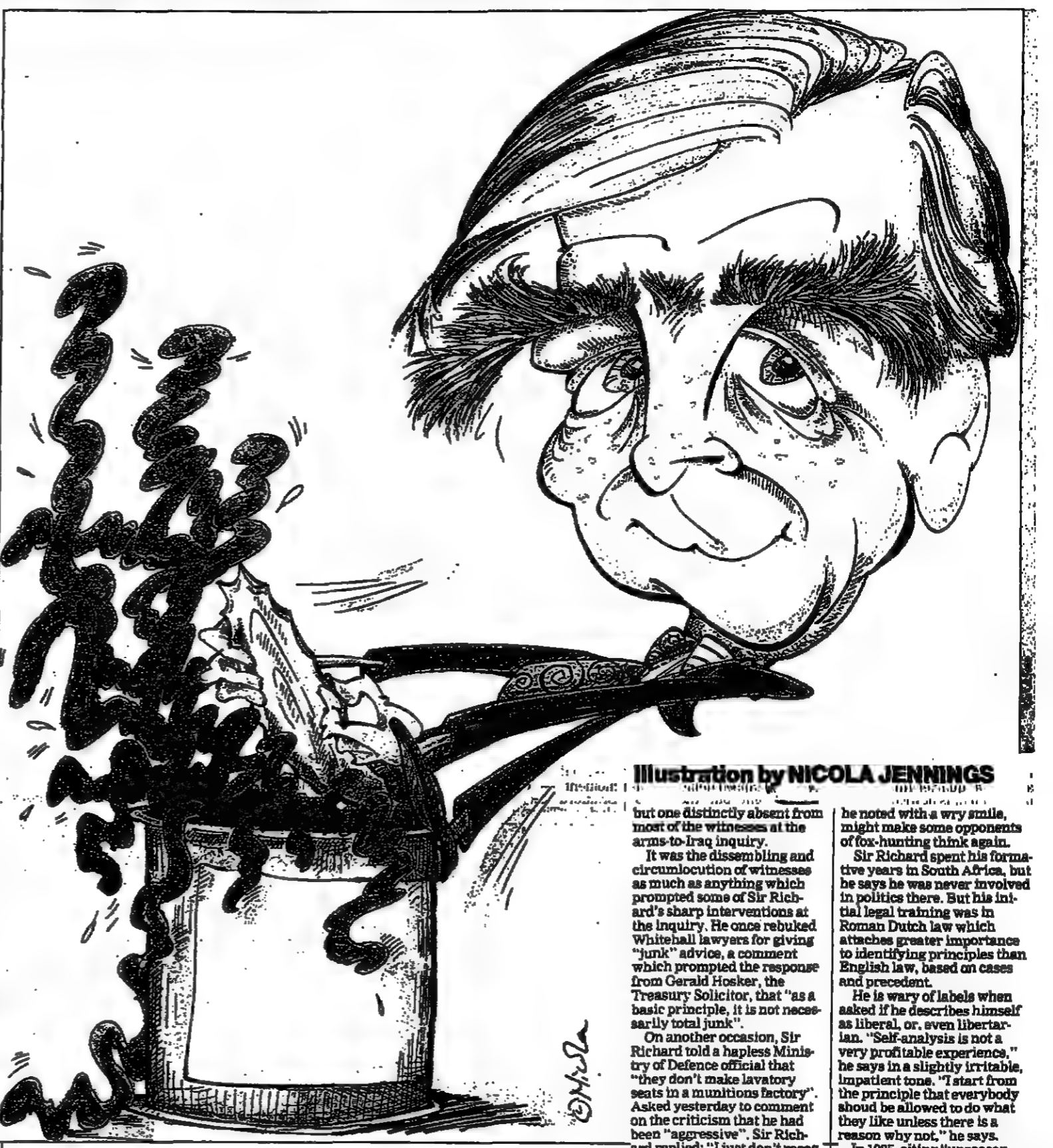


Illustration by NICOLA JENNINGS

Secret state can no longer be allowed to hide and slide

LORD Justice Scott is now being subjected to the very same process which produced the arms-to-Iraq scandal in the first place: a culture within government which requires inconvenient truths to be distorted or suppressed for the better avoidance of what Whitehall terms "presentational difficulties". His report will be judged by the remedy it prescribes for this disease in the body politic. It does not actually matter, in the long term, who gets Scott's brickbats or bouquets: public office will always attract politicians prone to hypocrisy, just as the public service will have its share of lickspittles. What matters is to have in place a system of government within which those temptations are deterred: by exposure and by public condemnation.

What the Scott report will detail is a systems failure in modern Westminster democracy. The "Howe Guidelines" of 1985, declaring an embargo on arms-related sales to Iran and Iraq,

were an exercise in moral superiority. They soon became unworkable, and were gradually abandoned, in the "tilt to Iraq" years leading up to Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. Why, Scott will ask, were these politically important changes not merely kept secret but actively misrepresented, so fervently that Parliament and the courts were repeatedly misled? One positive feature of Whitehall is its internal recording traditions, and a paper-trail of memoranda evidences the intellectual contortions — and very occasional moral agonies — of those who did what one of them described as "the dirty washing". When, over the objections of four ministers, I was allowed to read some 500 pages of this material in order to defend Paul Henderson in the Matrix Churchill trial, I was struck by one irony. Every level of government had contrived to avoid debate over the changes in arms-sale policy towards Iraq —

but one distinctly absent from most of the witnesses at the arms-to-Iraq inquiry. It was the dissembling and circumlocution of witnesses as much as anything which prompted some of Sir Richard's sharp interventions at the inquiry. He once rebuked Whitehall lawyers for giving "hurd" advice, a comment which prompted the response from Gerald Hosker, the Treasury Solicitor, that "as a basic principle, it is not necessarily total junk". On another occasion, Sir Richard told a hapless Ministry of Defence official that "they don't make lavatory seats in a munitions factory". Asked yesterday to comment on the criticism that he had been "aggressive", Sir Richard replied: "I just don't recognise that as an apt epithet."

He noted with a wry smile, might make some opponents of his hunting think again. Sir Richard spent his formative years in South Africa, but he says he was never involved in politics there. But his initial legal training was in Roman Dutch law which attaches greater importance to identifying principles than English law, based on cases and precedent. He is wary of labels when asked if he describes himself as liberal, or, even libertarian. "Self-analysis is not a very profitable experience," he says in a slightly irritable, impatient tone. "I start from the principle that everybody should be allowed to do what they like unless there is a reason why not," he says.

In 1985, citing "unreasonable harassment," he granted a group of South Wales working miners an injunction stopping mass-picketing by NUM officials. "It seemed to me if those people wanted to go to work they should be allowed to work without being subjected to a barrage of insults and so forth," he said. He is wary, too, of establishing a right of privacy in statute. He says legislation would be too rigid; judge-made law should be allowed to develop responding to "changing requirements and opinions of the age".

Sir Richard, meanwhile, has finished a task which will remain on Whitehall's conscience for many years. It was based on evidence which slowly emerged from 200,000 pages of official documents. It was "like peeling an onion", he said. The result is certain to lead to tears.

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Perils of a loaded chamber

NOTHING in British politics so sharply defines the difference between Labour and the Conservatives as their attitudes to the House of Lords. However radical the Conservatives may see themselves in other respects, they remain the doggedest of defenders of the unreformed and unelected upper House of Parliament. There is no more dramatic disjunction these days than to hear the same ministers demanding the restructuring of British industry and then displaying spluttering outrage at even the most gradual reform of the antiquated British constitution.

Conversely, however cautious Labour may be about uprooting the legacy of Conservative economic and industrial policy, or about chucking out Conservative restructuring of the welfare state and education, when it comes to the constitution Labour is genuinely ready for action. Tony Blair's John Smith lecture on Wednesday set out an ambitious legislative programme, coherent and directed, which will occupy a Labour government for at least the life-

time of a parliament. What is more, there is no shirking the big targets — with the conspicuous exception of the monarchy. New Labour and old Labour are here at one in now wanting at last to abolish the House of Lords as it has existed since its battles with the Liberals in the early years of the century.

Let us be clear what Mr Blair is now proposing. On Wednesday he committed himself once again to abolishing the political power of hereditary peers. "It is in principle wrong and absurd that people should wield power on the basis of birth not merit or election," he said, using an argument which applies with at least equal force to the monarchy. The balance of party loyalty among the 300-plus hereditary peers is grossly biased in the Conservatives' favour, he charged. Mr Blair explained that some of the genuinely talented hereditary peers could expect to return to the reformed house as life peers, and that there was room for further discussion about a continuing appointed element in the event of the upper house becoming an elected body.

The central objection to Mr Blair's plans is that they do not go far enough. The loss of the hereditary peers will leave some 280 life peers who take the various party whips, plus another 100 or so cross-benchers who take no whip. Even among those who will remain there is a built-in Conservative majority on most occasions. A Blair government would therefore have to do something to redress the balance in the short term and will also need to establish means by which future appointments are made. Clearly, this confers enormous extra

powers of patronage upon the office of prime minister. Unless and until the second house is elected in some as yet unspecified way, there will remain a permanent danger of party bias and nepotism.

Labour's shadow home secretary Jack Straw counters this objection by saying that the proposed "one-line bill" to abolish hereditary voting rights has to be seen as part of "a longer term project". Yes, it would be an appointed body, but "better a quango of the living than a quango of the dead". Labour would not go for a majority in the Lords, he insisted. To guard against government bias there would also be an independent advisory body.

Mr Straw's elaborations are useful but they do not dispose of the chief fear that Labour will find the temptation to reward its own chums irresistible, especially after the long years of a Conservative government which so shamelessly attempted to create its own one-party nomenclatura state. The remark which should haunt Mr Blair comes from the ennobled Herbert Morrison: "There's a lot to be said for the House of Lords." Once the reformers get the emine on it all looks different. The genuine anxiety is that somehow, somewhere, in the new order of things the impulse to further reform will become dulled, and that Labour will bequeath to a future government of another stripe a system which will then be abused in turn for a different purpose. Better a Labour majority than a Conservative majority, many will say. But better an elected second chamber than either of them. And soon.

Court in the soap

THE BALDING attorney spewed out the soundbite his aides had doubtless been working on all day. "Don't you have any shame. You tell the Globe one thing when you're suing them and you say another here when you are suing Random House?" Joan stroked her Gianni Versace cream silk blouse and subtly shifted the slit in her black silk Valentino skirt high enough to glimpse a firm elegant thigh. Joan could scarcely believe her ears at these Nazi-like questions as she tried unsuccessfully to meet him eyeball to eyeball. Had last night meant nothing to him at all? She had experienced indescribable sensations. At least it felt like love. He had played her like a Stradivarius.

Slowly, with infinite patience, he unbuttoned her blouse and brushed first his fingers, then his mouth against her eagerness. She thought she would die of pleasure. She had forgiven him everything, even the previous day's court performance, once he was on her bed. But that was then, and this was now. She felt like a cheap tart and remembered his final words to her before he had left at dawn: "I know I'm a shit, babe, but I love you."

She knew now that she had no alternative. There was only one thing she could do. She leaned towards her box of handkerchiefs, and took one out as she pushed the manufacturer's label so it

would be in full view of the inquisitive lenses of the familiar throng of paparazzi. As she prepared to shed a knicker-white tear she rushed out of the court to her private room at the back noticing that several of the women in the courtroom were checking her for cracks. She closed the door behind her and walked over to the large gilt framed magnifying mirror she had installed for the duration. There are two kinds of people in this world, she decided: those who screw and those who get screwed. And last night, she thought gloomily, she was a front-runner in category number two. A million men had fantasised about her as they reached for their wives to take their conjugal rights. But was she fading now? She frowned as she thought of last night, then quickly stopped as she caught sight of the furrows in her magnifying mirror. Unconsciously her hand moved towards her uncupped...

Suddenly her mobile rang. She knew even before answering that it must be Jasper, her agent. Could this mean he had already sold the book of the courtroom drama? "Dear heart," he crooned, "it's looking good for Courtroom Saga. Looking very good indeed for you. There's only one clause they won't shift on. You're not allowed to write a single word yourself. Now get your butt back in there and give it a goddamned good ending." She picked up several fresh paper handkerchiefs, took a deep breath and headed serenely back towards the court. Maybe she would keep her date tonight with Nazi-eyes after all.

Edited liberally from Prime Time by Joan Collins (Arrow)

Reforming the welfare system is one thing, but cutting it to cure economic ills, as the Government intends to do, is a chimera. MARTIN WOOLLACOTT argues that tackling the linked crises of welfare and unemployment requires fundamental change. Illustration by PETER TILL



Bitter pill that offers scant relief

THE linked crises of welfare and unemployment are worsening. They underlie the tensions in Europe over monetary union, and are already beginning to dominate the American election campaign. Everywhere in the developed world labour ministers are appealing for wage restraint, social services ministers are proposing welfare cuts, prime ministers are knocking their heads. Even the United Nations is downgrading, a symbol of the times.

The British government's plans to cut the running costs of welfare are a perfect example of the way in which welfare and unemployment problems overlap. The very techniques of re-engineering which, applied in private industry, have swollen the dole queues, are to be applied to the welfare workers themselves, many of whom will no doubt soon join their former clients on the pavement outside the Job Centre. In Germany, the government, faced this week with the highest unemployment figures since the war, wants to cut pensions, health care, and unemployment pay. In the United States, state governments have proposed a compromise on welfare that may help Republicans and the

White House resolve their quarrel over the budget. It is a compromise, however, that would erode entitlements to welfare payments.

Cutting welfare has become almost automatic as the layoffs mount up. It is insidiously and continuously present in the bitter pill we have to swallow if things are to get any better. Yet the evidence suggests that, at best, this is only a temporary way out of our dilemmas. Discussion is made obscure by the persistent refusal to recognise that the economic processes which produced the employment and welfare crises have human agents, whose decisions could have been, and could still now be, different ones. They are added further by the persistent notion that money and jobs are saved by cutting welfare.

This argument is a strange one. First, it ignores the fact that welfare is one face of the complex of policies that produces social peace, or a simulacrum of it. The certain result of less welfare spending is higher spending, by the state and by individuals, on other forms of security, financial and physical. The agencies which spend may not be the same, but the spending goes on. You can satisfy your citizens, you can buy them off, or

you can suppress them. Governments in practice do all three, in varying proportions. Switching between these strategies, or switching between public and private spending, doesn't greatly alter the financial problem, since all three strategies are costly and the form of spending is ultimately irrelevant.

Second, it suggests that transferring services from the public to the private realm represents a "saving". In fact, as the comparisons between British and US health spending have consistently shown, societies with largely private provision tend to spend more, because of duplication and profit taking. Third, it imagines that cuts in welfare costs to employers will enable them to compete with overseas producers whose labour costs are a fraction of those in Europe or North America. In fact, such reductions may greatly affect workers here, but have only a tiny effect on competitiveness.

The truth about reducing the welfare state, at least through the kind of reforms that we see proposed in many Western societies, is that no money is necessarily saved. This bears repetition. What happens, when welfare is reformed, is that the costs of

Ill-bred aristos for 'a that

Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

LET'S face it: Tony Blair's announcement that a future Labour government will ban the entire cast list of *Enrique's Peacocks* from any further part in the proceedings of the House of Lords could have been more felicitously timed. It wasn't simply that their lordships obliterated the Conservative government in a key vote on television sport just 24 hours before Blair spoke. There was more to it than that.

For the much maligned Upper House has administered an earlier humiliation on the Government the day before. It didn't make the papers because it concerned the real work of the so-called *Upper House* is done by life peers, most of them ex-MPs. The blue-bloods generally fulfil the role of the Seventh Cavalry to be summoned by Lord Strathclyde whenever the Indians look like winning. Their greatest triumph in this guise was when they voted to keep the poll tax — in defiance of the life peers.

As for the Lords' much-trumpeted role as a revising chamber, almost all the changes which it votes into government legislation are really amendments tabled by the Government itself. Far from confirming Wheatcroft's belief in the superiority of peers over commoners as a check on executive power, their purpose is simply to correct the increasingly sloppy drafting of government bills.

As a loyal Scot, I attended a celebration of the birth of my national poet last month. It was given by two Jewish friends who described the event as a Rabbi Burns supper. I wish I'd been able to recite a spoof of *A Man's Man* for "That, sent to me by (though not written by) Janey Buchan this week.

Here's a sample: "Our leader can make belted peers/ And ministers an 'a' that/ He now appoints the party whip/ And writes the rules and a that/ For 'a' that and a that/ Wi' spins on words and a that/ A black cow can become a white/ If the leader's office says that."

human causes, and something that can perhaps be mitigated but never opposed. Equally it avoids undue concentration on ideology, whether New Right or otherwise, as if economic shifts could be entirely put down to professors or politicians with a lightning over their heads flashing "deregulation".

Reforming welfare is one thing, but cutting it as a cure for economic problems is a chimera. A simple idea from Norway, reported this week, is that of rating firms on their record of maintaining and creating full-time jobs and giving the best of them a logo to which customers could refer as if they already do to ecological endorsements from green movements. It is a little enough thing, but it has far more chance of helping than the ill-judged assault on welfare systems that the loss of jobs has provoked. What would help most would be to abandon the idea that a welfare rollback is essential to any strategy for tackling the jobs crisis. What is essential is to confront the forces in our societies which have deepened social inequalities, stripped out millions of jobs, and now propose to act as if the resulting mess was everybody's problem but their own.

Smallweed



WITH ANY LUCK, one of the oldest challenges hurled at republicans — that they'd lead us with a President Thatcher or Hattersley — will be buried next week. His emergence as number

one slayer of sleaze, and the spirited way he is dealing with government bids to muzzle and malign him, should give Sir Richard Scott (as in Scott Inquiry) an unbeatable claim to preferment. Also, he cycles — so there's a decent chance that those who believe in a bicycling monarchy might swiftly be converted to a bicycling presidency.

A pedant writes: Characteristically, you appear to have overlooked one essential detail. Sir Richard hails from South Africa.

Smallest weekly riposte: In this day and age, so what? Most of the world's best presidents were born in South Africa.

THE NEWS yesterday that prescription charges were going up got less space than it might have done but for all the controversy over public sector pay. Just as the 1995 rise

in charges got rather swamped by the announcement of the Northern Ireland framework document. And the 1994 rise by reports of John Major's visit to Moscow. And the 1993 rise by a Ken Clarke plan for a crack-down on crime. And the 1992 rise because it couldn't emerge on the very same day as the news of record figures for unemployment, repossessions, and losses at Ford's. Which was much the same as occurred in 1991, when the rise in charges coincided with a major Major declaration on Europe — just as the 1990 rise had done with England's first win in 16 years against the West Indies... You simply couldn't prescribe for such a run of coincidences, could you?

GUARDIAN READERS were invited in a Friends of the Earth/Greenpeace ad this week to "walk the route of the Newbury bypass" tomorrow. Believing this newspaper's readers are at least as good as the Telegraph's, Smallweed is staying away. For the Telegraph ad began, as The Guardian's did not: "The Marchioness of Worcester, Lady Barber and the Hon Mrs Henry Tennant are pleased to invite Readers of the Daily Telegraph to walk the route... etc etc."

DID YOU KNOW that TV personality and former Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil was once a Hollywood star? Nor did I. But he told us so in his Mail column this week. "Last week," he wrote "I interviewed the splendid Simon Callow... As one of the stars of that rare breed — a British movie that is a world-wide box office success — I asked him what stopped the British film industry from making more

popular hits." Had anyone else used those words I might have suspected a grammatical error, but Neil is such a celebrated stickler for standards that we have to believe that he meant what he said.

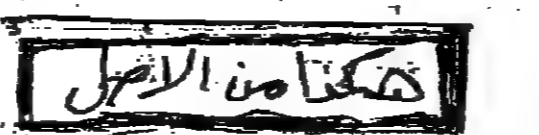
UNABLE to wait until April 21, like the rest of us, the *Wiltshire Gazette* and *Herald* has published a special number celebrating the Queen's 70th birthday. A lucrative band of advertisers has been mastered under the banner "70 Glorious Years". In the light of the recent behaviour of her daughters-in-law, I'm sure that Her Majesty will be particularly touched by a small ad from B Patel and Co, Solicitors, of Upper Stratton, Swindon, drawing attention to their specialist services. These are litigation; matrimonial; debt recovery; and commercial.

While I'm on this theme, I note that Wigan FC last week fielded a substitute called Jamie Barnwell-

Edinboro. This I think is the longest name in the British game, beating even Alexei Mikhailenko (Rangers). I look forward to reports of Wigan fans singing: "there's only one Jamie Barnwell-Edinboro". Unlike, for instance, "there's only one Ian Wright", this claim might even be true.

RAISING ALL three party leaders for showing their commitment to the countryside by writing it a letter of supportive concern, the Times suggests that modish metropolitan enthusiasm for banning fox hunting should now be enjoined by country folk of every class, as much part of the personality of rural England as its hedgerows and Norman churches. It is a liberty worth defending, the paper mauls.

Though perhaps a little ungrazily in the eyes of the





Damage limitation... Dubrovnik, jewel of the Adriatic, through the battle-scarred window frames of a lido, and below, pre-war: much of its medieval splendour survived Serbian assaults

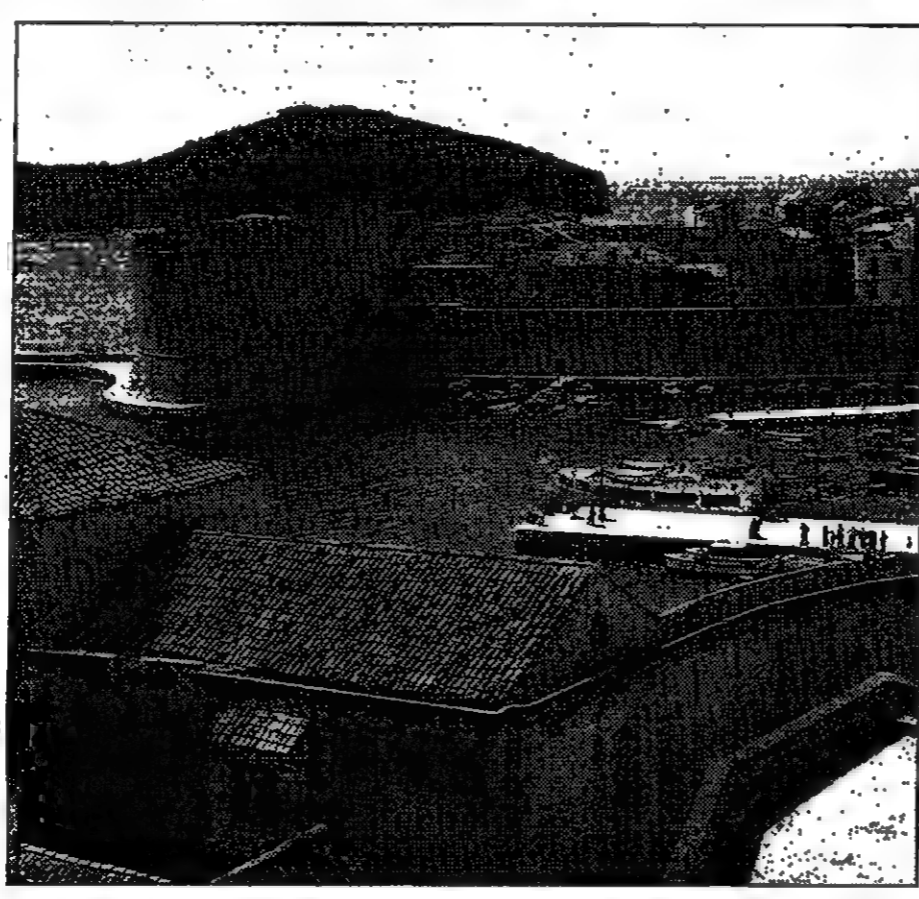
Hiding dirty secrets

continued from page 13 despite the fact, in these late Thatcher years, that the supporters of arms sales would have won that debate hands-down. Yet only one minister — the morally insouciant Alan Clark — had voiced the apparently unthinkable proposal that the changes might be announced and in Parliament.

Prince Charles visited Dubrovnik this week to witness the restored glory of a beautiful city after an ugly war, but, writes MAGGIE O'KANE, its suffering was slight compared to that of less privileged cities

Beauty is in the eye of the defender

PRINCE Charles's visit to Dubrovnik on Thursday was in response to an invitation he first turned down four years ago. The frenzied mayor of the city, Pero Fojenic, was faxing invitations on his satellite fax-machine by candlelight; a desperate man in a long navy wool coat calling on the world to visit, while outside the shells were hitting the white marbled streets of his medieval city.



Until that October 1991 attack and the "wanton destruction" of the "Florence of Croatia and the South Slavic Athens", most people hadn't realised there was a war going on in the former Yugoslavia. For many in Britain, the war began with TV pictures broadcasting thick ringtons of black smoke curl-

ing out of the city against the backdrop of an orange Adriatic sunset. Images that triggered memories of family holidays on the Adriatic coast. People began to wonder: "They're just like us. What's going on?"

Paddy's star rises in uncertain times



Martin Kettle

INSTEAD of putting that spare pound on the lottery this morning, why not give yourself a sporting chance and put the money on the Tories to win the general election? In the light of this week's opinion polls, and with the Conservatives at a tempting 11-4 with Labour, it's not as much of a mug's flutter as it may look.

swings to the Tories have sometimes proved to be just blips, as was the case last September, and this may happen again. Even so, it may take more than the Scott report to turn this one round for Labour.

There are further worrying signs for Labour in these latest polls. Labour's lead over the Tories on law and order is now down to only one point, according to ICM, clear evidence that Michael Heseltine's mud sticks and that the battle here will get even dirtier as the election nears.

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SWANSEA CORK FERRIES
Miles ahead of the rest

The sex factor

It's a familiar tale of a father fighting for access to his children, except that in this case the husband was born a woman and the wife claims she was duped. CLARE DYER reports

BEHIND closed doors at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, one of the most bizarre legal dramas in the law courts' 118-year history is unfolding. A battle is being fought out between the heiress to a share of a huge family fortune and her husband of 17 years, who was born a woman. Their identities are protected by a court injunction. At the heart of the case is whether the husband, a transsexual, perpetrated a deception on the unsuspecting wife, or whether the couple colluded in an unspoken bargain which suited them both. He insists she knew all along, and common sense seems to be on his side, though psychiatrists say it is possible for an individual to block out unwelcome reality at a conscious level. Clothed, Peter appears a small but convincing male, with a voice deepened by testosterone injections more than 20 years ago. Undressed, he has no breasts, but white scars where they were removed by a double mastectomy. He has had no surgery to alter his genitals — the female to male operation is dangerous and not fully effective. But his wife, Sarah, maintains that the discovery that he was born female has traumatised her so violently that she can not contemplate letting her former husband have any contact with their two young children, born by donor insemination.

The couple are locked in a battle over Peter's right to see the children, who regard him as their father. He has not been found to be an unfit parent, but so strongly has Sarah turned against him that the court decided her attitude would cause the children stress if contact continued and barred him, temporarily, from seeing them. That was 30 months ago. The court ruled that contact could only be re-established when the couple had resolved their disputes over money, but that still appears a distant prospect. Currently without a job but studying part-time, Peter lives in a tiny two-room flat surrounded by the legal papers which catalogue the collapse of his life. A short drive away is the former family home, a large house in nine acres, now let and on the market for £400,000. Sarah has moved with the children to another country.

Last month, a High Court judge ruled that Peter deceived Sarah and committed perjury when he married her, declaring on the form that he was a bachelor and knew of no impediment to the marriage. The ruling, which he was given leave to appeal against, bars him from making financial claims on Sarah. The home is in Sarah's name, though Peter claims he was responsible for organising the restoration after she bought it in a run down condition for £115,000. If he loses this appeal he will have only the right to claim that which he would have got as a cohabitee, based on the amount of work he put in on improving the house. Sarah is also claiming back the only asset he has — PEPs and income bonds she put in his name, of which just over £100,000 remain after spending £50,000 on the fight for contact with the children. He is now on legal aid, after she froze his assets last August.

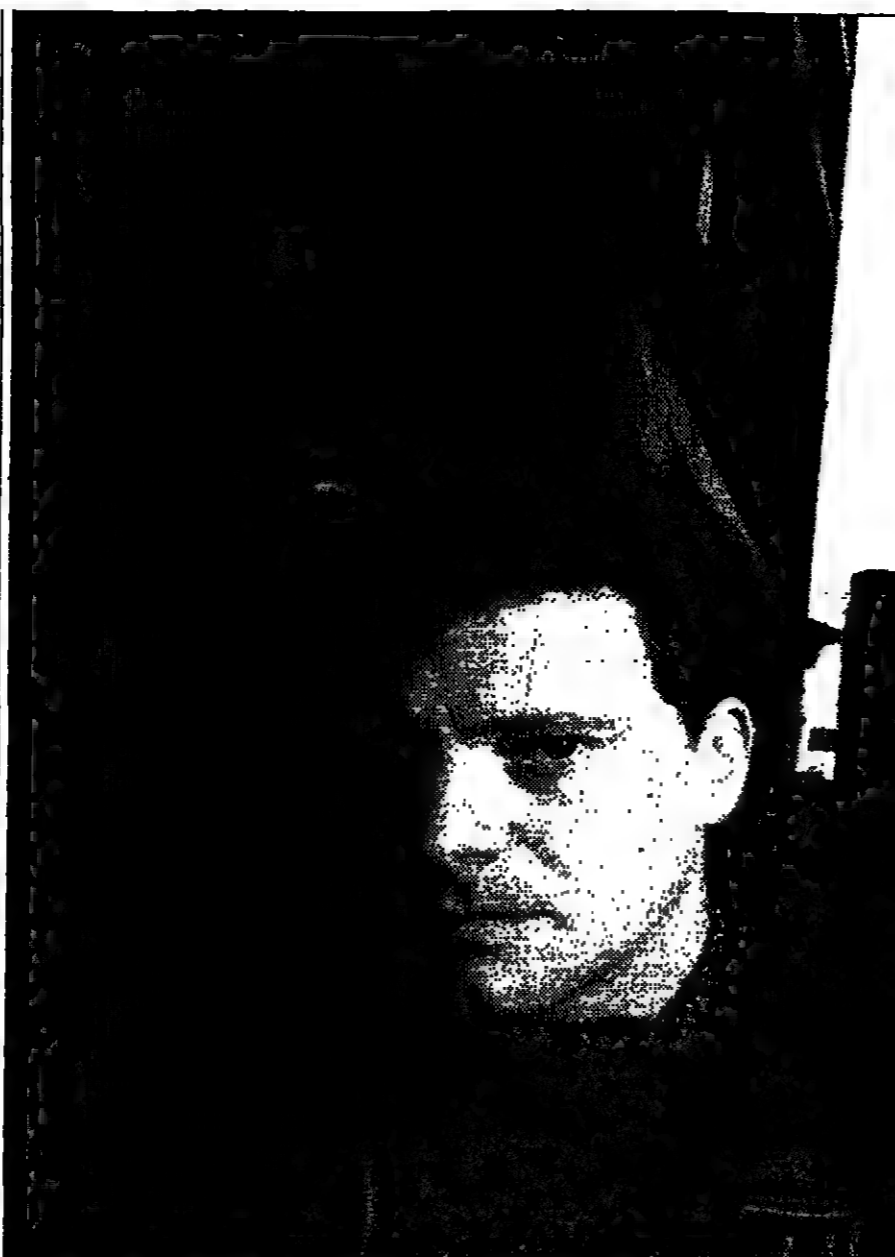
Though he estimates that her income from family trusts is worth £300,000 a year, he is claiming only "enough for a place to live and a little business to provide me with a liv-

ing." His real focus is on the battle to see the children. "What they're expecting me to do is slink away into the distance. I shall fight it if only for the sake of the children. I'm expected to keep my temper, not get emotional and just walk away from my children, saying 'OK, that's it. It's not possible.'"

It seemed an unlikely union, even if they hadn't both been born the same sex, but he says he regarded her as his "soulmate and best friend". He came from a working class family and left school at 15 with no qualifications. She grew up in a mansion and went to a leading public school. They met in her first year at university when she got a vacation job as a barmaid in the restaurant where he was working. Her parents — who didn't realise their grandchildren were conceived by AID and only recently learned the truth about their son-in-law — opposed the relationship but Sarah gave up university and after living together for nearly four months, the couple were married. She was 20 and Peter 30.

"When we were first married," says Peter, "we lived in a rented flat that was so cold we had ice on the toothbrushes in winter, and we were as happy as Larry. Now she's saying I only married her for the money. She's saying I only want to see the children so I can get back with her because of her money."

Given that she was 19 when they met and had grown up with brothers, didn't he think it strange that she never questioned his anatomy? "No. It was one of those unspoken things. It wasn't for discussion. It's as if you've got something wrong with you, you know about it and your partner knows about it but you don't talk about it. People find it amusing that we didn't talk about it, but we didn't."



Dark and brooding star: 'You get eaten up by these great parts like Hamlet ... I don't want to be lost to the world'

PHOTOGRAPH GRAHAM TURNER

Mr Darcy's dilemma: to be a star or flee from it all

Becoming a pin-up after *Pride And Prejudice* was all too much for Colin Firth. He fled the country to contemplate the tyranny of the eternal self. LINDA BLANDFORD tracked the actor-mystic down in the desert

THE DESERT in southern Tunisia is cold and brown. Cliffs of mud throw deep shadows over hobbled camels and Bedouin tents as the sun dips. In the middle of a valley floor, a bright yellow plane, nicknamed Rupert Bear, sits like a gigantic nursery toy. It belongs to Geoffrey Clifton, Colin Firth's character in Anthony Minghella's film of the Booker-winning novel, *The English Patient*.

Firth hops around between takes all earnest politeness and gawky hand gestures that would sit better on a younger man. His hair is blondish, and his beige flying suit oddly unflattering. He is the picture of an uncomplicated Englishman of the late thirties. Firth places great store on the contrasting powers of light and dark. He believes he is perceived as a simpler fellow on this set because he is blonde and that his Darcy in the BBC's *Pride And Prejudice* owed much of its mystery to black hair dye. It takes time to see that Clifton is yet another of those particular Firth character roles — the man whose conventional shell belies the violence of his emotions. Clifton, the jolly explorer, holds his secrets — that he works for British intelligence and is capable of murderous passion. So much for the "ordinary" and creamy Clifton; so much for Firth's frightfully decent Rupert Bear manner.

Americans on the set miss the contradictions in Firth. They take him at face value; they call him a "nice young man". They overlook the fact that he is now 35 and one of the few actors never out of work since he left drama school to star in *Another Country* in the West End.

On stage, he played Bennett, the tortured homosexual schoolboy based on Guy Burgess. In the film, he played Judd, the communist driven by hatred of militaristic sobriety. It is said that he was beautiful in those days, and yet his Judd is played without vanity, played always under the nose and against the emotion — an extraordinary achievement from a 23-year-old in his first film. "You can't come out on stage and act grief-stricken," he says at one point. "That's histrionic. I think when you come on stage trying to be happy and then fight against grief, that's moving." (Minghella says: "Colin is delicate." Is that the same as subtle? I ask. "Subtlety is nothing to do with acting — it's how you put your fingers down on the piano keys — he's delicate.")

He is no longer beautiful, as he was, for instance, in *Valmont*, his first "big" film. Even so, his face is oddly neutral most of the time — it is his eyes which give meaning to the dark, flat voice and much of the time, he holds them away. What he withholds in conversation becomes, in time, as revealing as what he writes when he acts. In this interview, each moment of letting go is followed by a day of withdrawal in which he pulls back, as distant as if he had never met. "If my confidence was challenged," he says later, "I'd withdraw."

It is another clue. There's a pattern. After *Valmont*, he withdrew to Canada, to live with Meg Tilly, his co-star and mother of his only child, Will, aged five. After *Pride And Prejudice*, he refused all interviews and went, when not filming, to Rome to his Italian girlfriend. "All this sudden attention threw me. I thought I knew where I was professionally. I didn't think this was on the cards." It is as if each possibility of success has led to flight.

Is it success he fears? He counters with his starring in the West End at 23. "For a while I had to be excessively modest so people didn't think I was above them. I forgot to return a phone call and now it was because I was thought arrogant, not because I was scatty and always had been. Then I realised nothing had changed. I was working, that's all there was to it."

He is not difficult to be with — not moody or hostile, as some actors are. He simply measures himself out very carefully, weighing all confidences. It is a question of waiting, of listening to the spaces between words, and then making connections. Here, for instance, is a list of actors he admires: Albert Finney, Donald Pleasence, Anthony Hopkins, Robert Redford. Not one has had a straight line to their lives.

SO HE wants success, but when it came again (with *Darcy*), he fled from it. Ambivalence, uncertainty, the fear of being defined — they all play their part. "There's no reason why the *Darcy* thing should perpetuate itself," he insists. "I'm not going to do that again. I'm not going to be that again. No, I'd be bored shitless."

He also says that it is important to remember the paradoxes of an actor — "the constant doubt and self-aggrandisement" is one he mentions — but also "the use of a spurious truth and honesty in this deception". Given that he never believes entirely in either, it is not surprising that he feels he is pulled two ways — the longing to be with his son, now living in Los Angeles, and the need to leave.

His loathing of sending his son to school — into the harsh, sharp-voiced structure of an institution — must surely spring from his own experiences. Hard to imagine how frightening it was for the five-year-old Firth, just back from Nigeria, to stand in the concrete playground of the tough local school in Hampshire and hold his own. He bristles at any suggestion that his busy parents — with their own respect for education and books — might have shielded their sensitive son beneath the wing of private education. And, as I have come to expect, withdraws.

Without always realising it, he keeps coming back to the question of values. "Being in this job without your own values is death," he says. "What values?" I ask. "The two values which keep recurring are honesty and courage and somehow you can't have one without the other. I'm constantly asking myself is acting putting on frocks and chasing one's ego or is it something more?" He both longs and fears for the chance to take on a huge Shakespearean role — to put his stake down on the hill of men and to have his courage and worth tested. "I remember talking to Robert Lawrence, who played in *Tumbledown*, and knowing that something happens in war when the adrenalin flows and there's only going for it in a bestial sort of way. Just occasionally a part comes along which provokes that recklessness in me and yes, Hamlet would be one. But you get eaten up by it — and I'm afraid, I don't want to be lost to the world."

IN YEARS to come, students of popular literature may date the death of the celebrity novel to February 6, 1996. That was the day Joni Evans, a senior Random House editor, stepped into a Manhattan courtroom and shattered the delicate set of illusions that once underpinned the multi-million dollar genre. Evans was giving evidence in the publishing company's legal battle with Joan Collins, the British actress-turned-novelist. Since Random House wants \$1.2 million it paid Collins back, Evans was called on to explain that two manuscripts submitted by the author were too execrable to be printed. The manuscript submitted by Collins in September 1991 had, she testified, been primitive, off-base, jumbled, disjointed, alarming, dated and dull. For good measure she added clichéd, melodramatic and "just plain ridiculous". Her withering testimony may have thrilled the thou-

sands of impoverished novelists toiling over unrecognized masterpieces. But for the agents and editors who specialise in converting celebrity into literary income, it sounded like trouble. For even if the book-buying public is sophisticated in its understanding of ghost editing, "who is going to buy a novel by Naomi Campbell if it features a front page blurb admitting that, really, she can't string a sentence together and the whole thing is written by a

Naomi (left) and Ivana enjoyed it while it lasted, but Joan Collins has written the last chapter

IAN KATZ on the fall of celebrity authors

Heinemann editor called Caroline Upcher? Even if no one believes a Jane Austen lurks inside every Ivana Trump, the celebrity author is at least assumed to bring something to the creative mix — an insight into his or her exclusive milieu, perhaps, or even the bones of a plot. But Random House denied Collins could offer even this much. Her settings and characters had been unconvincing, Evans testified. Her plots had been laughable. Her publisher scarcely

emerged unscathed either. During her testimony, Evans also revealed rather more than her employers might have liked about the pains publishers take to turn celebrity muck into bestselling brass. Even Jeffrey Archer, a novelist regarded as a celebrity for being a successful author rather than vice versa, had required intense editing after producing 16 drafts of a single book. The Collins case also uncovered the smiling deception practised by book



editors. In internal memos and conversations, the Random House editors professed disbelief at the Collins manuscript. But to her face they said, "This book has a long way to go but it will be terrific." If celebrities will now think twice about exposing themselves to the possibility of such embarrassment, publishers may also shirk from "leap of faith" deals with famous figures who lack proven writing ability. The American celebrity publishing scene has never

been healthier. The best-seller lists heave with confessional autobiographies by sitcom actors and the ghosted memoirs of gridiron greats. Every character in the O J Simpson saga, except the shoeshine man in the courthouse foyer, has signed a lucrative book deal.

Some publishers and agents think that, along with its cousin, the sex-and-shopping novel, celebrity fiction was on its way out before Collins stepped into court. "It's the eighties bubble bursting," said Anthony Harwood of Aitken, Stone and Wiley. "Ivana Trump and Joan Collins reflect that eighties sensibility, but the market is shifting away." Against that, Steven Schragis of the New York-based Carol Publishing Group, warned against extrapolating too much from the Collins spat. "It's the death knell of the \$4 million Joan Collins novel, but it's not necessarily the death knell of celebrity novels."

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The great grub war - and how we lost it

The future of British food is in jeopardy and, argues MATTHEW FORT, we have only ourselves to blame

WHEN I was a lad, I fell in love with the weir on the River Thames. There is a class of food writer for whom the names of our food products have a similar magic. Has the world anything more fair, wrote Her Grace, the Duchess of Devonshire the other week, than "Morecambe Bay shrimps, Harrogate coffee, Whitstable oysters, Colman's very Norfolk mustard and Kentish cobnuts?"

"For something more substantial," she urged, "go to Cumberland, Lincolnshire and Newmarket for sausages, to Bath for Olivers, to York and Bradford for hams, to Scotland for haggis, venison, Arbroath smokies, baps, finnan haddock, Gooseberries, rhubarb, horseradish, Cox's orange pippin's and grouse don't come far from home."

How true, how very true. But are any of them any good? The French may not have been the first to discover the magic of the geographical brand, but they have brought the concept to its highest pitch. How many gastro-travellers have not been separated from Scotland for haggis, venison, Arbroath smokies, baps, finnan haddock, Gooseberries, rhubarb, horseradish, Cox's orange pippin's and grouse don't come far from home.

There are no such laws in this country, no rigorous screening process, and few associations, societies or brotherhoods ensuring that the minimum standards are high and that those standards are maintained out of pride in the product.

Anyone who played a part in the Guinness Stout Sausage Quest a few years back, will bear witness to the truly astonishing amount of garbage passing itself off under the disguise of Uncle Mordred's Old Fashioned Pork Burgers. While there were many sparkling games, the amount of dross and the degree of dross would have

given dross a bad name. So when people take up the chorus about the quality and abundance of our home-grown produce — "second to none", "heritage we can be proud of", "foreigners are always amazed" — it is as well to take it with a little of salt.

That is not to say that we don't have brilliant cheeses, meats, fish, vegetables, pies, hams and so on. We do. But their survival and the maintenance of standards is left to individuals, who, on the whole have to be mad to do what they are doing, because they get small thanks, little help from their fellows, local authorities and government, frequently endure abject poverty and run the risk of being forced into bankruptcy through the ill-judged, malicious brutality of any one of the above-named bodies.

The decline in the number and quality of our native products should be almost as great a matter of concern as the destruction of the rain forests, because that is what it resembles most closely. If we are not careful, in a few years time all that's left will be a few examples of heritage farmers producing traditional heritage fayes.

For 50 years, since the U-boat blockade during the second world war almost succeeded in starving Britain into submission, successive governments have followed a macro-agricultural policy designed to achieve self-sufficiency and cheap food. The irony is that we now import more food than ever before — worth £3.4 billion last year — and the industrialised systems and competitive culture are responsible for an unprecedented series of food scares and the undermining effect that has accompanied them.

It is all very well for ministers and others to write on about "unparalleled range of choice", when no one really wants what's on offer. As Derek Cooper succinctly puts it in his forward to the

1995/97 edition of Henrietta Green's *Food Lover's Guide to Britain*, "There is an abundance of food about but it raises a low level of expectation."

Such low expectation reduces still further public interest in forms of cooking which depend on trust in the high quality of ingredients. It is a tall order to ask a steak and kidney pie with much vim if you think you're going to get BSIS from the steak part.

As consumers, we have to share responsibility for helping to create this dire situation. We have come to expect strawberries 365 days a year, and asparagus in December. We want it now and we want it cheap. "Is there anything more depressing than being faced with a pheasant in May?" said the Duchess of Devonshire. For most of us the question hardly arises, not because we don't like pheasant but because we've lost all sense of their season.

A second reason behind the decline in our national culinary culture is the almost total lack of interest by our native-born chefs. The towering giants of the profession will turn out immaculate French or even Italian dishes. They know what to do with truffle oil and have as deft a way with a sabayon as any of their Continental *convivres* or *soeurs*.

But how many have studied the structure of a trifle, or thought long and hard about the nature of a pie? Did you know there isn't even a word

in French for "pie": "quelque chose en crouste" is not the same thing at all.

And it is much easier to send a van to Rungis market outside Paris twice a week and stock up with pigeons, ducks, mushrooms, vegetables and cheeses than to hunt them down in your own neighbourhood, or persuade the admittedly deeply conservative farmers to produce them.

In other European countries, the direct link between restaurant and producer has always been far stronger. The French, for example, having failed to dominate the world by passage of arms or diplomacy, have resorted to a form of cultural imperialism of which gastronomy is the fiercest cutting edge. But behind it is a serious commercial purpose. If everyone thinks that French food is wonderful, they will want to buy lots of it. The reputation of French cooking is second to none — not surprisingly, because the French have made sure we see it that way.

In fact, lots of French food is no better than ours, but we are still in thrall to the mystique, carefully nurtured by a tiny proportion of total food production, found in the rural markets and among artisan butchers and bakers, and of course in restaurants.

And these restaurants know that there is a basic law of marketing: you can't afford to stand still. You have constantly to be introducing new products or people will get

bored and buy something else. So all these bright and talented chefs have been producing variations on local produce and local dishes. There is even a phrase for it: "l'art renouveler la cuisine du terroir", any chef worth his salt will say to a visiting journalist inquiring after the source of his or her inspiration. The development of French cooking has been based on its own ingredients and culture.

The development of British cooking has depended on what we can import, the natural consequence of centuries-old imperialist tendencies. In the introduction to *Sauces, Sauces And Aromatics In The English Kitchen*, Elizabeth David wrote, "The English people have a natural taste for highly seasoned food". This is not, she suggests, the result of the need to doctor and disguise poor quality or half-rotting meats, but the natural consequence of a tradition that goes back to the 14th century and beyond.

She cites recipes from the 15th century containing ginger, pepper, mace, cloves, cinnamon and galingale. "Those recipes calling for the lack in mustard and vinegar, herbs, wine and ale."

Five centuries on we are still at it, importing to Sicily and doctoring olive oils and sun-dried tomatoes, lemon grass and soya sauces, mangosteens and preserved limes. But there has been one important change. Whereas once we imported them and put them to work jollying up our native dishes, binding them into our own culinary tradition, now we simply take on the dishes wholesale.

Restaurant menus and supermarket chiller cabinets are stuffed with ersatz combinations drawn straight from the cooking traditions of Italy, Thailand, Spain, China, France and India. Dinner parties are dominated by char-grilled chicken breasts with grilled peppers in a kaffir lime

leaf infusion and steamed Chinese cabbage.

It is, of course, a mistake to believe that it is only the exotic delicacies that hold sway. That is the delusion of food-writers and personalities and their middle class acolytes. For most people, other immigrant foods are those which have won their hearts and minds, the mass produced, mass produced foods of America — hamburgers, deep-fried chicken, deep-pan pizzas, saturated in fats, steeped in sugars.

It is not so much that we neglected our own culinary heritage as abandoned it wholesale. Where it does survive, it is in the form of culinary embalming. We extol the virtues of the steak and kidney pudding, the shepherd's pie, faggots. There is The Great British Breakfast, with fried bread as its central altar-piece, and the Great British Pudding such as jam roly poly, Sussex Pond Pudding, ye olde trifle, but these dishes, excellent as they are, represent a state of the art several centuries old. The steak and kidney pudding is to food what the abacus is to computing.

Where culinary investigation has been undertaken, it is in the form of archaeology. Did "Burnt Cream" predate Creme Brulee? What are the authentic ingredients of a Lancashire Hot Pot. Can we revive cherry potage?

There is that dreadful British tendency to hark back to some imagined golden age, when the world was a purer, better place, and the food was purer, better stuff. This is, of course, total nonsense. The history of British food is one of adulteration, dilution and tampering.

Even those who clamour loudest about the excellence of our native produce, are less convinced that we know what to do with them. When I asked the Duchess of Devonshire whether she thought people treated their native foods properly, she answered with a trenchant "no".

If it is any consolation to Her Grace, it was ever thus. In the preface to the 1845 edition of *Modern Cookery For Private Families*, Eliza Acton wrote, "It cannot be denied that an improved system of practical domestic cookery, and a better knowledge of its first principles, are still much needed in this country, where, from ignorance, or from mismanagement in their preparation, the daily waste of excellent provisions almost exceeds belief."

However, there is a clue here to the essence of British cookery, and why, in most of its modern forms, it has gone so wildly off the rails. Let us forget for a moment, the nonpareil quality of our ingredients. Let us consider what we do with them when we have them. What is the nature of British cooking?

If you look through the introductions and forewords and instructions of even the great classic writers, you will not find many clues. For one thing, you get a strong feeling that even the fiercest defenders really think, in their heart of hearts, that British cooking is inferior to that of other countries.

For another, even our greatest writers seem at a loss to know how to define its qualities. "What each individual country does do," wrote Jane Grigson in *English Food*, "is to give all elements, borrowed or otherwise, something of their natural character". And then, infuriatingly, she neglects to tell us what the natural character of English food actually is: regional or seasonal or technical or none of these things?

The answer, increasingly, would seem to be none. The culinary traditions of many nations already flourishing in this country may make the development of a single "national" culinary culture an absurdity. It seems a pity, however, that the cooking of the best country does not ensure the vitality and creativity of those it has welcomed so greedily.



It is not so much that we neglected our own culinary heritage as abandoned it

Illustration by GEOFF GRANDFIELD

The shape of capital things to come

A new-look London for the year 2000 has caught the imagination of architects and the public alike. DEYAN SUDJIC looks at some ideas for the future of the great metropolis

THE RESPONSE to the Architecture Foundation's programme of debates on the future of London has been nothing short of astounding. Quite unexpectedly, what were planned as a series of well-meaning but essentially

arcane private conversations about the shape of the capital have turned into highly-charged public events. The venue has shifted from a tiny church in Piccadilly to Central Hall in Westminster, large enough to take 2,500 people. January's opening

session was packed to hear Richard Rogers, John Gummer and others discuss where London, rudderless for a decade, is going in the next century. It was certainly the largest general audience that Gummer has ever had a chance to discuss urban policy with. And now that Lord Howe has publicly conceded that abolishing the GLC was a mistake, even Gummer is now close to admitting that London does need leadership of some kind, "if only it could be non-political".

The next session in February brings together Terence Conran, Piers Gough and the

engineer, Alan Baxter, with the focus on the under-utilised potential of the Thames. Inhabited bridges, a serious riverboat transport system and the potential of the restaurant business to bring new life into run-down areas are all on the agenda. Over the next six months, further debates will tackle everything from transport to housing and from culture to the future of the parks.

It's important not to get carried away. The debates may sound like an assertion of old-style grassroots democracy, a town meeting for a giant city. But they are still essentially talking shops. Yet their extraordinary success suggests a pent-up demand among every section of Londoners for a chance to shape what the city can be.

There are innovative local authority planners, such as Fred Mansour from Southwark, there are exciting individual projects like the Tate's Bankside museum of modern

art. There is even the chance of some radical new architecture in London: Will Alsop has a plan to enable passengers arriving at Blackfriars railway station to choose whether to get off on either the north or south bank of the Thames.

This is not only doing something remarkable for the geography of the capital, but could be the most beautiful of the architect's schemes to date, as shown by models at the Architecture Foundation's gallery in St James's as part of the exhibition accompanying the debates.

But what London has not had since the 1940s, when Patrick Abercrombie drew up the regional development plan, is any sense of vision that goes beyond the pragmatic and the mundane. What has been lacking is a vision that brings ideas, people and architecture together.

Remarkably, that wartime plan is still shaping the way London develops. Abercrom-



Revitalising the river: the Tate's Bankside museum

bie designated a military runway at Heathrow as the capital's major airport, and the South Bank as its cultural centre. He even suggested a high-speed rail link from Heathrow to Paddington. Now, 50 years later, that project is within sight of completion.

After Abercrombie, planning got the worst of names on

both sides of the political spectrum. The result was the chaos of the great lurch into Docklands of the 1980s: a surge of development that marooned 25,000 office workers in the middle of a sea of mud with inadequate transport and roads and a generally abysmal standard of architecture.

The retreat from planning has left London uneasy about the potential of attempts at radical urban surgery. Most of the architects at the debates talk about ambitious schemes to knit together the north and south banks of the Thames.

Richard Rogers dreams of making the South Bank an essential part of the West End and sheltering the Hayward Gallery under a cliff of glass. Michael Hopkins is proposing a cable car link jumping off at Covent Garden, pole-vauling across the Thames on a single steel strut and landing up at the foot of the Festival Hall. They find it very hard to be taken seriously.

The most common response outside the architectural ghetto is the assumption that though that kind of thing might work in Paris, it goes against the grain in London. In fact, the two cities, a whole order of magnitude bigger than any of their European rivals, have leaptfrogged each other in attempts to outdo the other's best ideas over a couple of centuries. It is perhaps the prospect of going several steps better than Mitterrand's Paris that is behind the bubbling ferment of architectural ideas reflected by the foundation's debates.

Initiatives like this cannot be reduced to bureaucratic guidelines. They depend on creating a climate in which a sense of excellence can flourish.

Just look at Virginia Bottomley's ludicrous new logo for London to see what can go wrong when a committee tries to come up with an aesthetic idea.





Pioneer... Franklin at Stoke City in 1950

Neil Franklin

Prototype sweeper in a minefield

NEIL FRANKLIN, who died yesterday at his Stone, Staffordshire, home, aged 74, was the most distinguished English centre-half of his generation...

the ball, the skill with which he best opposed forwards and the vision which enabled him to set up attacks with perceptive passes, set him apart...



Standards bearer... Fletcher at the Home Service in 1949

Ronald Fletcher

Speaking for a way of life

EVERYONE knew Ronald Fletcher, who has died aged 85, through his voice. He was one of a handful of radio announcers who entered the national consciousness a lifetime ago...

Audrey Meadows

Lively honeymoon with Jackie Gleason

WHEN Dustin Hoffman, addressing an audience at the National Film Theatre in London, mentioned that his favourite television programme as a youngster was The Honey-mooners, he encountered a sea of blank faces...

audience saw was the grimy kitchen, which served as both living and dining room. The view from the window was the back of buildings and fire escapes...



Sitcom driving force... Meadows with Gleason in The Honey-mooners

appreciated the air and yell: "one of these days Alice, you'll be right in the kitchen!"

Weekend Birthdays

BURDENED since 1991 with the label of "most powerful woman in publishing", Random House UK boss Gail Rebuck, 44 today, actually vies now with Eddie Bell of HarperCollins to be ranked as the book trade's most powerful person...

capacity: "Gail has never learnt how to hate." JD Today's other birthdays: Larry Adler, harmonica player, composer, writer, 82; Michael Apted, film director, 55; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, former Chief of the General Staff, 89; Sir Michael Elshopp, chairman, Channel 4, 64; Olwyn Bowyer, painter, 60; Dr Alex Comfort, physician, poet, novelist, 78; Roberta Flack, singer, 58; James Alexander Gordon, broadcaster, 68; John Flannery, cricket umpire, 55; Roland Hanna, jazz pianist, composer, 64; John Hayes, secretary-general, Law Society, 51; Prof John Heslop-Harrison, botanist, 78; Keith Mans, Conserva-

tive, MP, 50; Peter Middleton, chief executive officer, Lloyd's, 56; Greg Norman, golfer, 41; Nicholas Owen, breakfast-time broadcaster, 48; Leontyne Price, soprano, 69; Mark Spitz, swimmer, 46; Robert Wagner, actor, 63. Tomorrow's birthdays: Lloyd Bentsen, former US Treasury Secretary, 75; Prof Marilyn Butler, Rector, Exeter College, Oxford, 58; Sir Alex Cairncross, economist, chancellor, Glasgow University, 82; James Cochrane, Conservative MP, 54; Christopher Dearnley, organist, 66; Patrick Leigh Fermor, author, 81; Sir Archibald Forster, chairman and chief

executive, Esso UK, 68; Sir Vivian Fuchs, geologist, Antarctic explorer, 88; Bryan Goland, former Labour MP, 57; Wyn Griffiths, Labour MP, 53; Michael Jackson, controller, BBC 2, 58; Brian Lemon, jazz pianist, 59; Lt-Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, commander, Ace Rapid Reaction Corps, 56; Leslie Nielsen, actor, 70; Mary Quant, fashion designer, 62; Burt Reynolds, actor, 60; John Salako, footballer, 27; Dennis Skinner, best of Bolsover, Labour MP, 64; Kim Stanley, actress, 71; Johan Svare, racing champion, sports commentator and author, 88; Mary Tregear, Oriental art historian, 72; Malcolm Walker, chairman, Iceland Frozen Foods, 50.

Face to Faith

The altar of managerialism

TOP of the agenda before General Synod next week is the Turnbull Commission report, a brilliantly conceived plan for the restructuring of the Church of England. Central in the report, Working As One Body, is a vision of the Church as a business corporation...

body of the Church will be responsible. While the report describes an intended, field reports would already indicate that those in "middle management" — junior and suffragan bishops, archdeacons, rural deans — are rapidly assuming the methods and demands associated with their new roles...

ranking employees and de-skilling for shopfloor levels. For middle ranks it means intricate, self-imposed and internalised patterns of obedient behaviour; for lower ranks, this control is simply external and regulatory.

Doonesbury



the application to religion of what American sociologist George Ritzer has called "McDonaldisation" — the seeking of ever greater uniformity, predictability and control in society. Religion remains one of the few spheres of human life which in part has resisted the managerialism of contemporary Britain. Theology remains a discourse which can still erect barriers against the

Death Notices

IN illustrating its obituary of the Earl of Warwick on January 28, 1996, the Guardian inadvertently published a photograph of Mr Graham Jackson of Maidstone in Kent. The photograph, supplied by the now defunct Keystone agency in 1973 and retained in our files, had been wrongly captioned at the outset by the agency as portraying Lord Brooke (the then title of the late Earl). In fact Mr Jackson had been photographed at that time as the director of Madame Tussaud's responsible for negotiating the purchase of Warwick Castle. The Guardian regrets the error and any distress caused to Mr Jackson and his relatives and friends.

YOUR PENSION IN YOUR OWN TIME IN YOUR OWN WAY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Money Guardian

The hidden cost of loving

When the kissing stops, financial heartbreak starts

Teresa Harter

LOVE may not be time's fool, but we are whenever we fall in love...

With one in three marriages ending in divorce, and countless other relationships falling apart...

Most couples are ill-advised to open joint bank and savings accounts...

Couples are wise to keep their accounts with different banks as, at best, two accounts with one bank may be viewed as a whole when granting loans to one partner...

The main advantage of joint accounts is that should one partner die, the other has immediate access to their combined funds...

Joint credit cards can also be a liability when love dies. The main cardholder is liable for the debts of the associate cardholder...

Those with divorce in mind should also consider keeping life assurance separate. Although more costly initially, such policies will pay out on both deaths rather than one...

Similarly, repayment mortgages are more flexible than endowments when a couple part. There are substantial

penalties for endowment policies surrendered early.

New laws are beginning to give cohabitants some legal rights - but the unmarried still have no rights over a partner's assets if there is a break-up...

Under the Law Reform Succession Act, partners and spouses have an automatic right to the first £75,000 of an intestate estate, and a life interest in the remaining half...

This change may not be welcome news for many married couples. Mary Hase, of accountants Hereward Phillips, explains: "Most couples believe that if they leave everything to their spouses, then it will pass automatically to the children."

But if spouses will their share of property directly to the children, an inheritance tax bill could be triggered, as only transfers between spouses are free from tax.

Cohabitees are not eligible for tax-free transfers on death, which explains why so many famously unwed couples tie the knot on their death bed. Similarly, married couples can swap assets free from capital gains tax - the unmarried cannot.

Cohabitees with children can claim a married couple's tax allowance but they will not qualify for state benefits for married people such as a widow's pension. Some company pension schemes also will not make payments to an unmarried partner.

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes



Romantics who should run for cover

Jill Papworth

THE thousands of couples who will get engaged next Wednesday - St Valentine's Day - should give some thought to the less romantic side of marriage: the cost.

The average bill for a wedding last year was nearly £8,700, according to Wedding and Home magazine. They estimate the figure for weddings in 1996 will top \$9,000. This expense is worth protecting through insurance.

The first item to be adequately covered should be the engagement ring, either under their own home contents insurance or that of a parent's. The average amount spent on an engagement ring is around £550. Most standard contents policies automatically cover items worth up to £1,000 or £1,500 against loss or damage in the home, so only very expensive rings will have to be specified separately.

But only if your policy includes "all risks" cover for individual valuable items will you have a valid claim should your ring be lost, stolen or damaged while outside the home. Get a dated valuation when you buy the ring and keep it and the receipt in a safe place.

disaster spoiling the big day. While only an estimated one in 80 couples buys such insurance, more of the 300,000 couples likely to get married this year might add it to their planning list if they considered what could go wrong.

Among the list of wedding day disasters recorded by insurers is a bride whose £1,000 dress was ruined when her five-year-old brother painted on it, a groom who developed chicken pox the day before the wedding, a couple whose photographer dropped when he arrived at the church, and a summer wedding where the guests were forced to flee when a spark from a barbecue set fire to the hotel.

The cover you would expect to find in a standard wedding policy starting at around £35 includes cancellation costs because of unforeseen reasons, damage or loss of wedding clothes, the cost of retaking unsatisfactory wedding photographs, loss of or damage to presents within 24 hours of the wedding, lost or damaged wedding rings and liability for accidental injury or damage to property.

One universal exclusion is cover for either bride or groom changing their mind and failing to turn up. And always read the small print carefully, cover varies substantially from company to company.

Some policies, such as Cornhill's Wedding Insurance at £46.12 covering cancellation

expenses of £2,500, and General Accident's policy, starting at £50.99, cover against the costs of any wedding supplier going bust. Others restrict their insolvency cover to the reception venue only.

Some insurers only cover damage to wedding attire before the wedding itself, so you are not covered if the £1,000 silk dress you plan to pass on as an heirloom to future generations is ruined by spilled red wine or a cigarette burn at the reception. One insurer said: "We'd be open to abuse if we covered dresses after commencement of the wedding."

Other variations to look out for include policies which cover wedding photos but not videos, those which exclude redundancy of the bride or groom as grounds for a cancellation claim, and those including Methodist, Ecclesiastical and General Accident which levy a £25 excess on all claims.

Cornhill's Wedding Insurance is the only stand-alone policy so far to cover couples joining the growing band of romantics who opt for an overseas wedding, though Britain's largest

travel insurer, Home & Overseas, offers a policy in conjunction with tour operator inspirations which specialises in foreign wedding packages.

While most wedding insurance policies cover presents for a short period after the wedding, typically 24 hours, you should check that gifts are insured after this, especially if you are going away on a honeymoon, leaving them unattended at home.

A few insurers, including Eagle Star and Norwich Union automatically increase the maximum sum assured on home contents policies by around £3,000 for a month before and after a wedding while others such as the Royal Warrant cover wedding presents for an unlimited period so long as the policyholder tells them they are going to keep the gifts in the home. But not all companies offer this facility.

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Taking a fix on savings bonds

Cashpoints

THIS week's favourite investment product would appear to be the fixed-interest savings bond.

NatWest Bank has introduced the High Income Bond which pays a monthly interest fixed at 6 per cent after tax on minimum deposits of £5,000 until July 31, 2001 - but there is a risk that an investment may be eroded.

The amount of capital payable at the end of the term depends on the performance of the Footsie share price index of the top 100 companies listed on the Stock Exchange. If the index rises by at least 37.5 per cent over five years investors will get their deposit back in full.

However, the bank will only return 85 per cent of the original investment if the index fails to rise by the set level or falls over the term.

The Woolwich Building Society has a three-year fixed-rate bond paying 6.4 per cent gross and 4.8 per cent after tax on minimum deposits of £1,000. The returns on investments over £24,999 is fixed at 6.65 per cent before tax (4.99 per cent net).

The Coventry has a four-year fixed-rate bond with a minimum investment of £2,000. The new bond will pay interest rates which are raised year by year on a sliding scale starting from 5.75 per cent gross (4.81 per cent net) to 9.35 per cent gross (6.93 per cent net) in the fourth year.

NORTHERN Rock has branched out to Guernsey to offer its customers the benefit of the tax haven. Its new offshore instant access account pays interest gross at 6.45 per cent on deposits of at least £10,000.

MIDLAND Bank is seeking Welsh pockets of high-value credit card. The Welsh card gives customers a Mastercard and Visa for a yearly fee of £12. Non-Welsh speakers need not fear as the card works in English just as well. Keen Welsh cardholders will not mind carrying the flag cheap. Cyfrdd Iddag ar y mis APR 20.9 any or burcasus a 22.7 y can yn godd arain; or, to put it another way, charges on the card are set at an hefty APR of 20.9 and at APR 22.7 for borrowing cash on the card.

YOUR PENSION IN YOUR OWN TIME IN YOUR OWN WAY. A Merchant Investors pension is an easy, convenient and flexible pension. The charges are low. Invest what you want, when you want. Pay no commission when you buy direct. No sales person will bother you. Merchant Investors Assurance. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Alliance, Europe's largest insurance group.

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The pension. The cost. Money Management's independent surveys of the pensions industry show ours to be one of the lowest cost, best performing pension plans available. And cost is important: with some plans, charges can reduce your savings significantly. You can choose to invest your contributions in Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust with its celebrated performance record - or any of our wide range of investment trusts. You can add to an existing plan or set up a new one and there are no penalties should you vary your contributions or retire early.

Form for Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW. Includes fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and a section for return to Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd.

Find out why pension plans are not all the same. Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan. THE EQUITABLE LIFE: Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business. Has no shareholders. OUR PENSION PLAN: Lets you retire earlier or later than planned - without penalty. Lets you vary your contributions - without penalty. Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

Kinnock joins Snow Hill bowlers

Neil Kinnock, European commissioner for transport, yesterday abandoned the traditional cap of the Welsh valleys for a City bowler to mark officially the completion of the £500,000 refurbishment of Birmingham's Snow Hill station.



Top'n'rails... Neil Kinnock (right) unveiling The Commuter, with Ernst & Young executives at Birmingham yesterday

MPs knife the nuclear sell-off



Edited by Mark Milner

MPs on the trade and industry select committee have done investors a favour. By scrutinising the Government's proposals for the sale of the nuclear industry well in advance, they have thrown much-needed light on the financial complexities well before the sale prospectus has been issued.

As it stands, the draft takes not a sledgehammer — as is usually the case in politics — but a stiletto to the privatisation case.

Pearson pressure

Media predators are now clearly out of the trap — no question of waiting for the legislative starter's flag now the M&U/United News merger is in the open.

Pearson's \$580 million (£50 million) cash bid for the HarperCollins educational publishing business may have deflected some of the heat surrounding the group, but it has surely not eradicated the probability of a takeover.

The self-styled media group — whose interests still span entertainment such as Alton Towers as well as Leasards banking, the Financial Times and Thames TV — remains ripe for acquisition, even though Rupert Murdoch at Granada, who contemplated the move, now has his mind on digesting the Forte hotels empire.

The market gave Pearson the nod in terms of the price it is paying for HarperCollins educational, but doubts must remain that anyone will come off the better when they are buying from Rupert Murdoch.

The deal promises to be earnings-positive within a year, but the educational publishing sector remains hard pressed and salvation through new media, such as CD-Rom, is some way off.

But, despite recent executive strengthening, the group is still regarded as an organisation of huge potential which somehow fails to capitalise on its strengths.

Murdoch sells offshoot

Lisa Buckingham

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group which is in the eye of takeover speculation, yesterday agreed to splash out \$580 million (£50 million) to buy the educational publishing operations of Rupert Murdoch's HarperCollins group.

Shares in Pearson ended the day 7 1/2 pence higher after earlier plunging 30p as City dealers concluded the purchase would make the group a less easy bid target.

Speculation has suggested that US entertainment group Viacom, and even Granada, still digesting its £3.8 billion Forte acquisition, were providing the bid.

The cash purchase will increase Pearson's debt to equity ratio from 5 per cent to 22 per cent. Mr Barlow said the acquisition should boost Pearson's move into the CD-Rom market thanks to the increasing demand for so-called "entertainment" as well as the growing demand with classroom standards.

Mr Murdoch's News Corporation is not renowned either for selling assets cheaply or for disposing of businesses which have growth potential.

Having invested substantially in the business, Pearson said that it expects the acquisition to benefit earnings immediately. Costs can be cut from the overlap between its existing business and those operations it is buying.

500 building jobs at risk from deal

Tarmac to swap £600m of assets with Wimpey, writes TONY MAY

A NEW round of swinging job cuts in the construction industry was ushered in yesterday when Tarmac and George Wimpey clinched a deal to swap £600 million of assets.

The deal, first announced in November, will make Tarmac the UK's leading construction company, while Wimpey will emerge as the UK market leader in housing.

Mr Stimmis expects to extract cost savings of £16 million or £20 million in the first year while, at Wimpey, Mr Dwyer said he anticipates savings of £5 million in 1996.

Tarmac expects its 1995 pretax profit to be at least £65 million after charging an exceptional £30 million staff find themselves on its payroll.

The Building Employers Confederation has already warned that 20,000 jobs will be lost this year as the industry shrinks — taking the total number lost since the recession started in 1990 to nearly 300,000.

Discontent grows as strike hits Royal Bank of Scotland

Pauline Springett

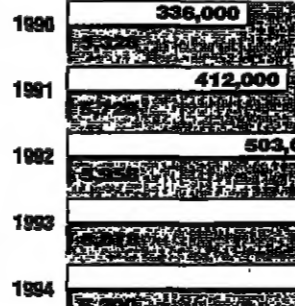
THE Royal Bank of Scotland was yesterday hit by strike action at its London branches. About 150 staff staged one-day stoppages in protest at the bank's refusal to increase the London allowance, which has been frozen at £3,450 for five years.

Royal Bank of Scotland's processing office in the City where nearly half of the 100 staff joined in. BIFU spokesman Jerry Pickford said staff wanted the London allowance increased by 16 per cent to £4,000.

Travel costs had jumped by 50 per cent. A RBS spokesman said the strike had involved very few of its 4000 London staff.

Banking salaries

Salary comparisons, £s. A typical high street bank.



The strike was the latest evidence of growing tension in the banking sector. There have been 110,000 redundancies in the past four years.

Meanwhile staff at Yorkshire Bank are also to start their second week of an indefinite overtime ban over pay.

Greece calling

THREE years ago Greece looked to be proceeding boldly with the privatisation of its telecommunications group, OTE. A large, albeit minority, holding was to be sold off and a foreign partner brought in to provide the technical expertise OTE required to bring it up to date.

The foreign partner idea was always a difficult one for Greece, since OTE handles the country's defence communications and it was no real surprise when the idea fell victim to a change of government.

News in brief

SFA lawyers to rule on Barings

The Securities and Futures Authority said yesterday it would soon decide whether or not to take disciplinary action against some of the former employees of the collapsed merchant bank Barings.

Savings record

Sales at National Savings, the state-controlled savings institution, last month reached a record £1.51 billion.

Disney lands deal

Capital Cities/ABC Inc said yesterday that it completed its merger with Walt Disney and is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the world's second biggest entertainment group.

£4.4bn bill as Japan moves to close loan companies

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

PRIME minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's cabinet yesterday submitted a bill to parliament to clean up the messiest part of the hundreds of billions of pounds in bad loans crippling Japan's financial system.

The bill to close seven bankrupt jusen (housing loan companies) is promised a hard battle in parliament, not least because it involves £4.4 billion of taxpayers' money.

Public, the bill includes promises to set up a special task force, composed of police and officials from the justice and finance ministries and tax agency, to recover as much of the bad loans as possible.

Watchdog spells out Welsh Water takeover safeguards

Nicholas Barnister Technology Editor

JAN BYATT, the water industry regulator, yesterday published detailed plans to ringfence the finances of Welsh Water's core business following the group's £872 million takeover of Swalec, the regional electricity company.

The regulator and consumer groups feared that it would be impossible to untangle the finances of the regulated electricity and water businesses once common operations such as billing had been hived off to a new facilities management company within the enlarged group.

However, Mr Byatt has got the Welsh Water directors to agree to conditions aimed at preventing the facilities management business from syphoning money out of Dwr Cymru, the core water business, by overcharging.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Value, Country, Value. Includes Australia 1.97, France 7.52, Italy 2.380, Singapore 2.12, Austria 15.30, Germany 2.2000, Malta 0.5450, South Africa 5.42, Belgium 35.00, Greece 370.00, Netherlands 2.4780, Spain 186.00, Canada 2.05, New Zealand 2.23, Norway 186.00, Sweden 10.90, Cyprus 0.7075, India 57.06, Norway 6.64, Switzerland 1730, Denmark 9.575, Ireland 0.575, Portugal 229.00, Turkey 33.818, Finland 7.01, Israel 4.80, Saudi Arabia 5.68, USA 1.5000.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page with the word 'Jobs' at the top and 'working a Euro' at the bottom.

Brussels thinks the unthinkable for Common Agriculture Policy as governments break out the beer and sandwiches to meet trade unions

Jobs: gnawing dilemma for Europe

THIS week unemployment in Germany topped four million, while in France it already more than three million. As dole queues lengthen across the European Union, the search is on for ways of creating jobs.

The Commission is now considering the unthinkable — switching its budget priorities from agriculture to employment-sensitive programmes such as the trans-European infrastructure network and industrial research. Last year EU farm spending came in under budget by around £1.8 billion, an underspend expected to grow over the next three years.

In Belgium, talks involving government, employers and unions will be held this week. Hard bargaining may be needed. Germany's plan to trade wage restraint for job creation put forward by Klaus Zwickel, head of the IG Metall union, came under fire from some government economic advisers. Swedish employers are on collision course with the government over plans to restrict overtime. In France workers took to the streets to protest at welfare cuts.

Germany's labour market problems are increasingly acute, with the social costs of employment meeting increasing criticism. The government's annual economic report complained that wage-earners were lucky to take home half their gross pay. It said: "Production costs are now estimated to be so high that economic activity is seen as pointless. Overheads are becoming more important than direct wage costs and long term have risen clearly faster than direct labour wages. Reimbursement has also caused a substantial rise in the burden of deductions."

Sweden, the government is considering restrictions on overtime to force companies to take on staff. The proposals, which would halve the amount of overtime in private industry, come amid growing calls from trade unions and opposition parties for a shorter working week in a drive to promote job-sharing.

Despite an export boom that has brought soaring profits for many leading corporations, unemployment is close to 13 per cent and rising. The prospect of capped overtime has created a backlash among companies, with telecommunications group Ericsson, one of the country's biggest employers, threatening to move production abroad if the proposals go ahead.

In France, efforts at a joint approach are already under pressure. The right-wing government has accused employers of pocketing job-creation incentives without taking on new staff. President Jacques Chirac alienated employers by blaming them for the 11.7 per cent unemployment rate. But the National Council of French Employers claims prime minister Alain Juppé is not doing enough to make it cheaper to employ people.

The high cost of the French welfare system. What cripples employers are local taxes and contributions to family grants which we do not think should be the responsibility of employers. The national council points out that peripheral charges imposed on companies represent 17 per cent of gross industrial product. The figure for France's main trading partner, Germany, is 11 per cent, with Britain on 10 per cent and the US on 9 per cent.

Report: GREG McIVOR, JOHN PALMER, ALEX DUVAL SMITH and IAN TRAYNOR

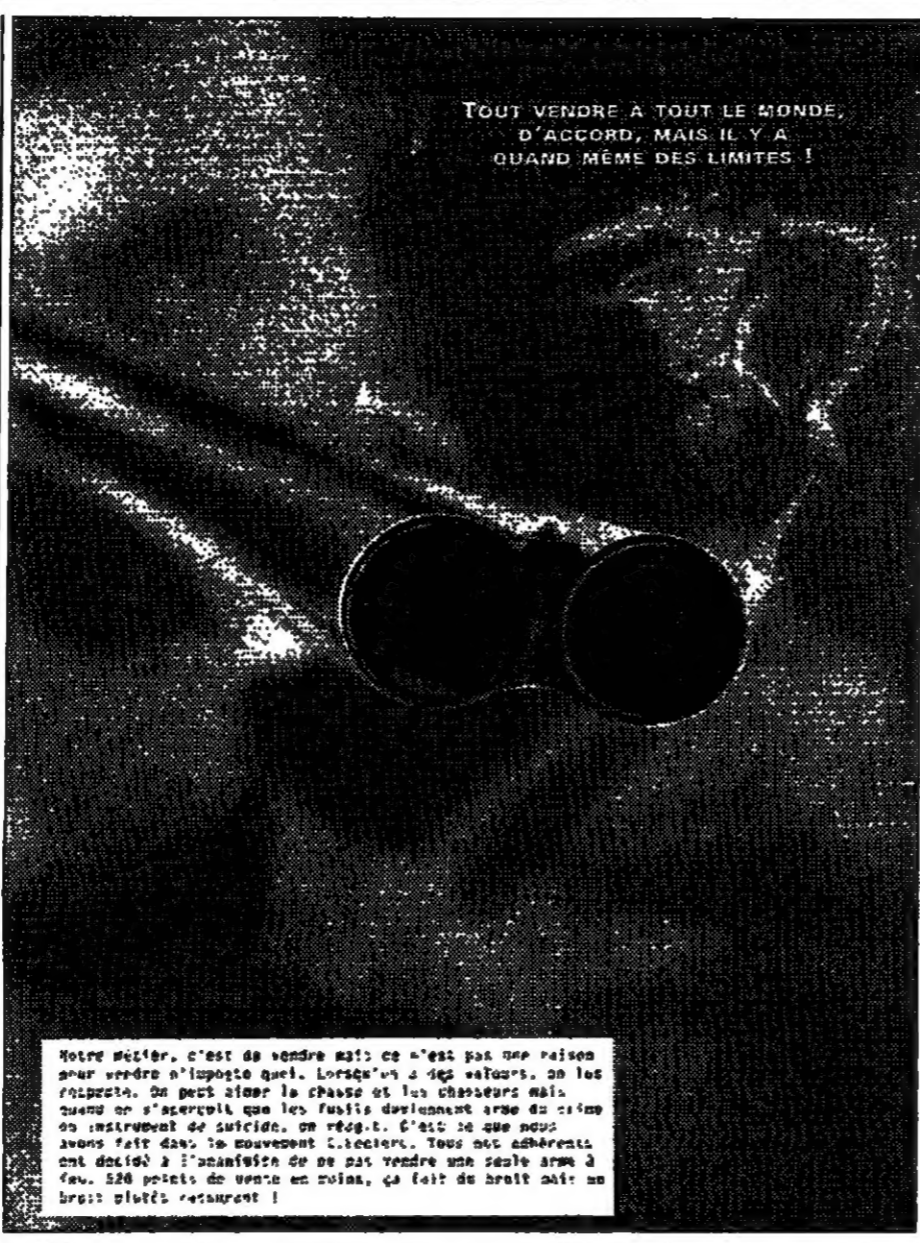
amount to 41 per cent of gross pay, borne 50-50 between employer and employee. Of that, 15.3 per cent goes on pensions, 13.9 per cent on health insurance, 6.5 per cent for unemployment benefit and 1.7 per cent (later this year) on care of the elderly.

Italy's solar energy sector hopes clouds will clear

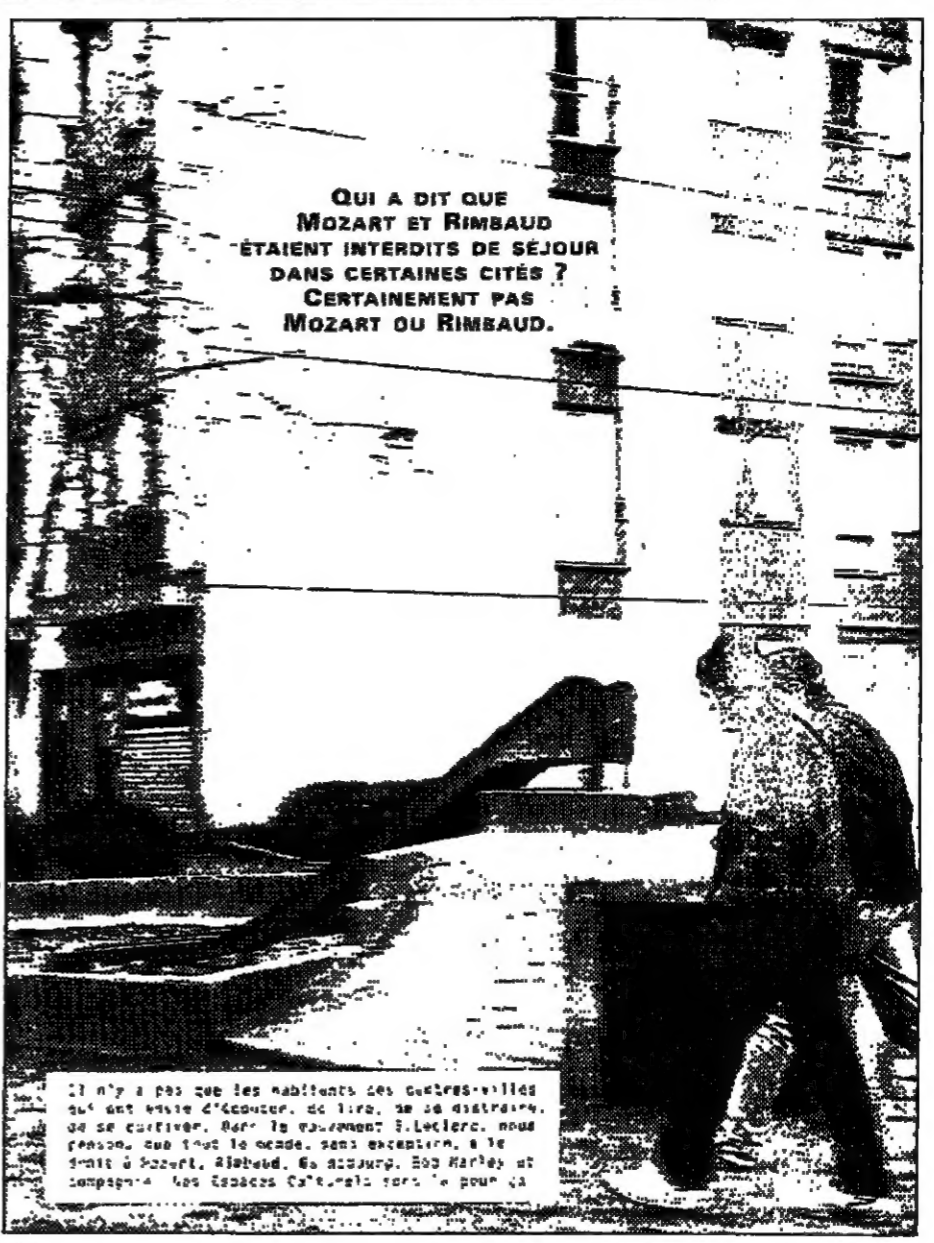
JOHN GLOVER at Italy's showpiece photoelectric power station

NOT far from the power station at Serre, near Naples, the air is fresh and offers frolic in a wildlife park. But this is not your usual power station. It looks like rows of greenhouses. There is no noise and no smoke. There are no trainloads of coal, oil tankers, cooling towers or tricky radioactive waste... only a small office complex and rows of something that looks like glass.

price tag is 35 billion lire, and it will last 30 years with no maintenance. But Enel's station at Civitavecchia produces electricity at less than 4p per kwh. French nuclear power costs about 1p. Mr Vigotti is undaunted by the comparisons. "Solar energy has far greater added value. We have to make it become one of the options." He is pinning his hopes on a fall in the price of photovoltaic cells. Through the raw material, sand, is practically free, turning it into cells costs a packet. But the price is falling. In 1985, a module of cells cost \$8 a watt. By 2010 he expects the price to be \$2-3 a watt.



Bullet points... Mouvement E Leclerc has stopped selling hunting rifles, at a cost of £13 million revenue a year, and started promoting Mozart and Rimbaud on housing estates



Qui a dit que Mozart et Rimbaud étaient interdits de séjour dans certaines cités? Certainement pas Mozart ou Rimbaud.

Hypermarket campaign puts conscience first

ALEX DUVAL SMITH reports from Paris on the overtly political message lying behind E Leclerc's novel approach to advertising

NO MORE special offer six-packs. Through a stark new advertising campaign, a hypermarket chain has declared war on the French government's inaction in the face of mounting social ills.

featuring a man asleep on a sofa. "The Mouvement E Leclerc respects the individual", he claims, they must be earned with a clear conscience. Without a hint of irony, E Leclerc is launching "espaces culturels" in its hypermarkets. The advert proclaims: "Who says Mozart and Rimbaud should be banned from housing estates?"

centre of French people's concerns: youth unemployment, the blighted housing estates and crime. They are also the issues for which measures taken by the prime minister, Alain Juppé, have been criticised as superficial. E Leclerc, which also has outlets in Spain and Portugal, is run along religious lines by Michel-Edouard Leclerc, the son of the group's founder.

Update

1 Italian connoisseurs of eels and pickled gherkins can now eat their fill without worrying that they will be expanding the country's inflation rate as well as their waistlines. Eels and gherkins have been removed from the basket of products whose prices are used to calculate inflation — as have tripe, pencils and typewriters. In for the first time come computers, compact discs and electronic keyboards while, in perhaps the oddest change, jigsaws puzzles have ousted toy trains.

Seviliana, the two firms affected, said this meant they could reduce their indebtedness by 720 billion pesetas (£3.8 billion).

Spanish siege rewards 'Napoleonic invaders'

ADELA GOOCH in Madrid on the internecine struggle that opened way for foreign takeover

AFTER decades of internecine fighting, one of Spain's most famous family firms, Loewe, fell into French hands this week when Louis Vuitton-Moët Hennessy paid 20,000 million pesetas (£108 million) to raise its stake in the company by 70 per cent to 88 per cent.

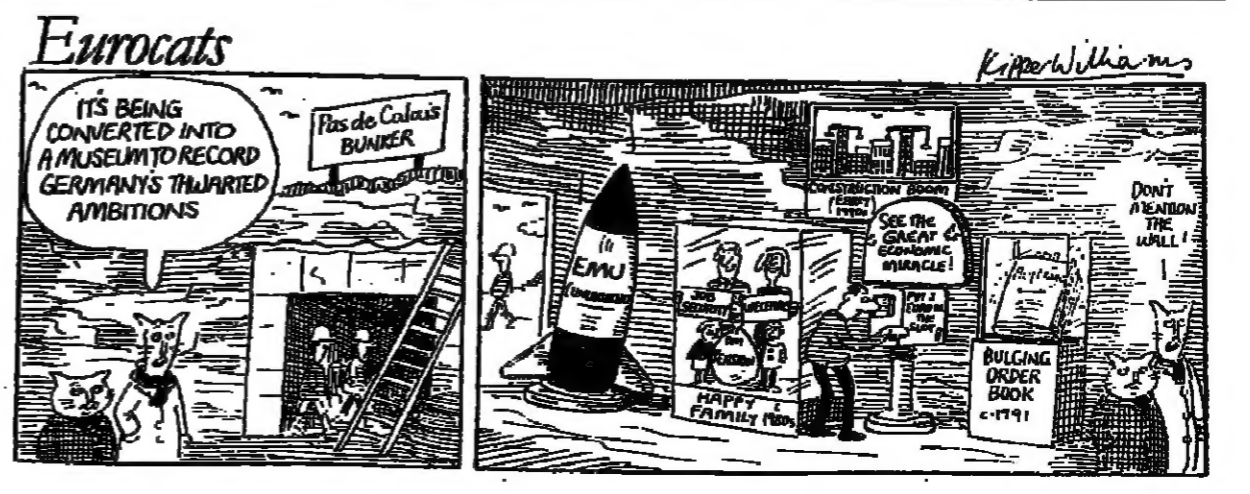
launched a takeover offensive proper. "There was no alternative," said Louis Urois, Loewe's chief executive since 1984, who added that the firm will benefit from its new stability. LVMH, whose other assets include Christian Dior, Cellini, Christian Lacroix and Moët and Chandon, also has an option to buy out the further 6.4 per cent owned by Spanish group, Gabriel Garcia Alonso.

prices are up to four times higher than in Europe. The new owner guarantees that Loewe will retain its Spanish identity and high standards. A Loewe handbag undergoes as many as 20 quality controls and is almost entirely handmade. But some of Loewe's 800 employees, who average 15 years' service with the firm, have expressed fears that the company's family feel may disappear.

For coining a Euro term

OUR competition to name the coin worth one-hundredth of the Euro, as the single European currency is to be called, attracted a wide range of entries. Most popular was the pean (as in Euro-pean). The Santa, evoking EC president Jacques Santer and monetary union, was close behind. The prize, however, goes to Simon Coates for his Gallic pun in similar vein — the ter. Mr Coates notes: one euro equals cent (100) ters. The David Simononis cartoon is on its way.

Although Loewe has since branched out into clothes, perfumes, scarves, ties and other gift goods, ranging in price from 2,500 pesetas for a key ring to 1.8 million pesetas for a crocodile suitcase, its worldwide fame rests on its sumptuous leather craftings.



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ALEX BRUMMER in Tel Aviv ventures into Israel's hi-tech world where defence know-how is powering economic revival

Nice work for spooks

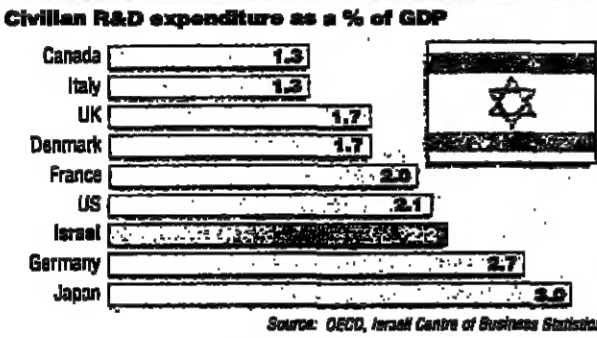
THE London Stock Exchange's search for a reliable voice logging system, designed to provide high-quality digital recording, storage and retrieval of all calls conducted by its members, has ended with the decision to sign a contract with Israeli-based Nice Systems. In opting for NiceLog - a state-of-the-art technology developed by former members of a secret intelligence unit - the Stock Exchange is following several other large players in the City, including ABN Amro, Deutsche Bank and UBS, all of which have recently switched to Nice technology.

Kong's new Chek Lay Kok Airport. A similar system has just been ordered by the American Federal Aviation Administration, for dozens of US airports. Nice is selling an airport-based "black box" on which every message and signal through an airport control tower is digitally recorded and logged, and can be retrieved instantly, even if the message to be analysed was transmitted months before.



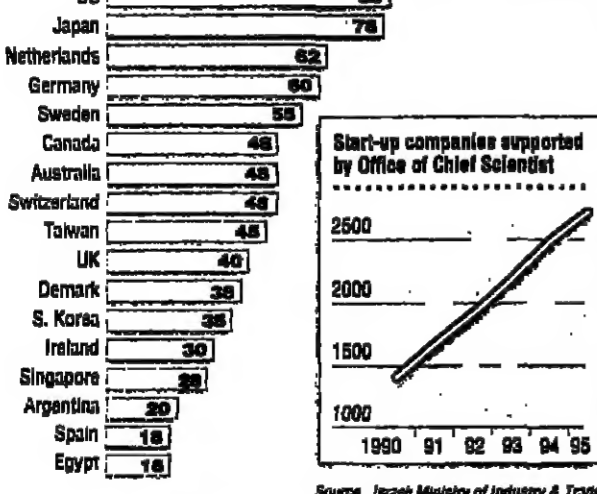
Listening box... Stock Exchange members' calls will be recorded by NiceLog, developed by Israeli ex-secret service members

Future in mind



Source: OECD, Israel Centre of Business Statistics

Scientists & technicians per 10,000 workers



Source: Israeli Ministry of Industry & Trade

Three ways to success for the budding entrepreneur

THE office of the chief scientist, armed with an annual budget that this year reaches \$380 million (\$253 million), dispenses cash to scientists and engineers with the most promising technologies. Office chief Shuki Glatman was last year responsible for 2,400 programmes in 800 companies. There are three types of funding: Grants: This is the main form of assistance. Every year 200-250 new players are granted up to \$150,000 to invest in research and development. The grants aim to create the right atmosphere by reducing the risk to the start-up enterprise. The recipient must account for every shekel borrowed, but is only required to repay the money through a royalty if the R&D turns out to be a winner. The government receives no equity in the project.

Police want more bomb at

Police want more bomb at... (Text partially obscured by other content)

It just isn't done...

It just isn't done... Simon Beavis... (Text partially obscured by other content)

The Guardian Weekly subscription information, including rates for 6 months and 1 year, and contact details for subscriptions.

Advertisement for Simon Beavis, featuring a large '20' and text about corporate governance and the phrase 'It just isn't done'.

Quick Crossword No. 8045, including a crossword grid, solution key, and contact information for the publisher.

Monday Feb... A gal and... Dublin Ad 'se' Police w of more bomb at... Inside